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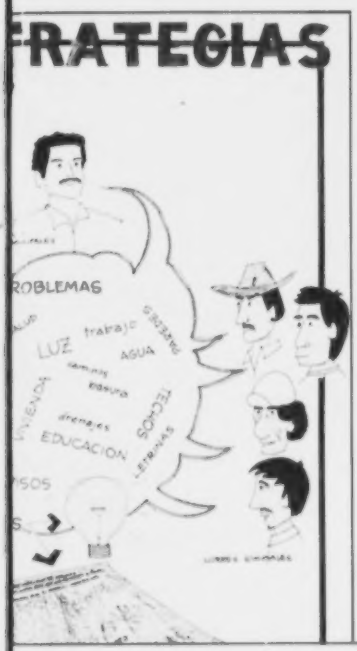

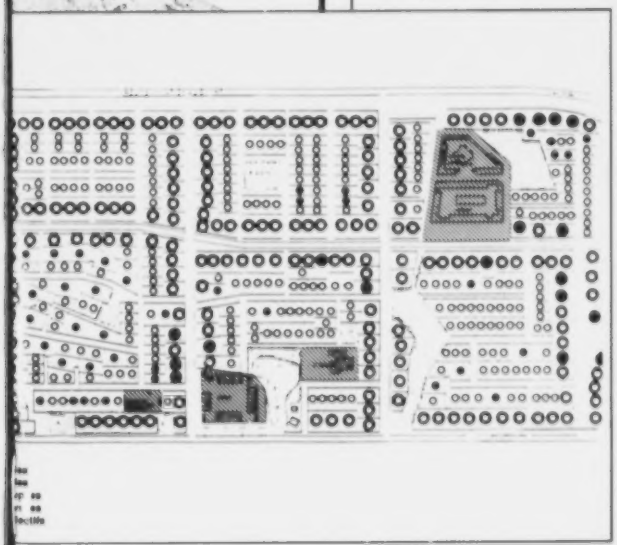

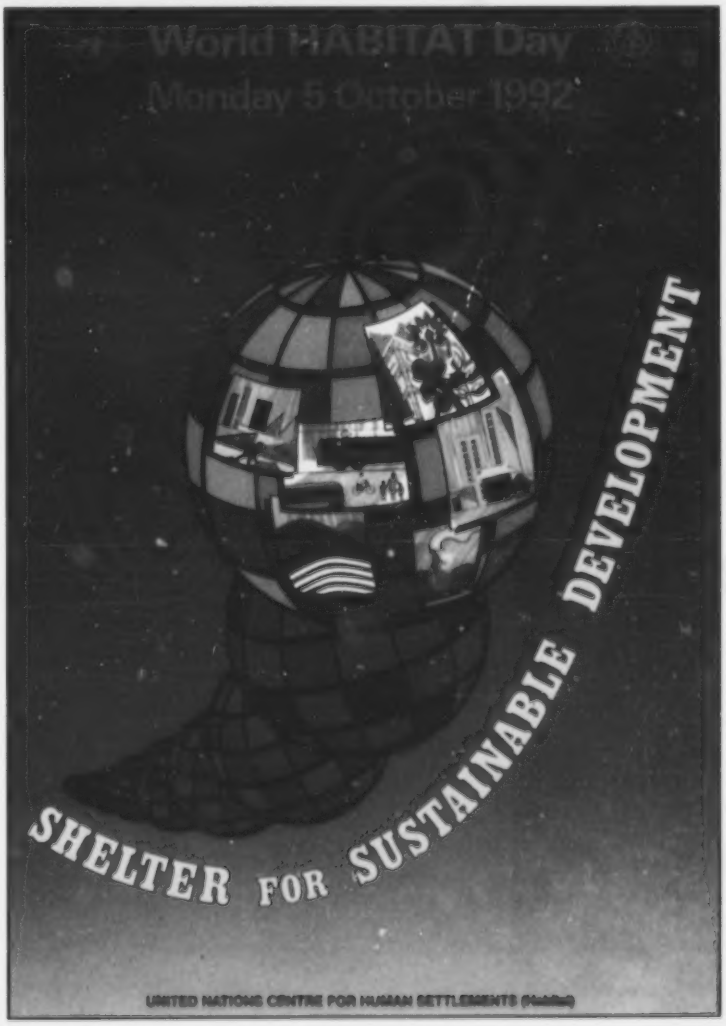
World HABITAT Day
Monday 5 October 1992
SHELTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat)

FOREWORD

This issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS covers the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly known as the Earth Summit. One of the major achievements of the recent Earth Summit was to emphasise economic growth and the alleviation of poverty through sustainable development. As I write this foreword, preparations are well advanced for this year's World HABITAT Day, which focuses on the theme **Shelter for Sustainable Development**, especially timely in view of the recent Rio Conference.

The following pages also describe activities of UNCHS (Habitat) at the country, regional and global levels, carried out in cooperation with the Governments of various countries, other United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions.

These range from a conference on shelter and economic development in Uganda to a Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean; from the Urban Management Programme's first regional (Asia and the Pacific) consultation meeting to a Round Table on Training in Support of Urban Finance and Management for Arab States.

Such activities may not gain the media attention accorded to the Earth Summit. Yet they too are important steps towards achieving sustainable development, for they address specific problems and opportunities in the human-settlements sector and come up with new or renewed partnerships to achieve the goal of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

Both the regular sections of this issue -- which outline the activities of the Centre and highlight events, courses and publications of interest to our readers -- and the feature articles -- which go into detail about specific aspects of human settlements endeavours -- are presented with a view to sharing experiences and insights as we work towards facilitating shelter for all by the year 2000.

Arcot Ramachandran

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran
Under-Secretary-General
Executive Director

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UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES

Dr. Ramachandran's visit to Uganda

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), accompanied by the Hon. Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, paid a courtesy call on H.E. the President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Museveni. During the 15 January 1992 meeting, the President was pleased to note the agency's work in Uganda, and mentioned the possibility of further involvement, e.g., in improving city planning. Dr. Ramachandran spoke of the continued assistance and cooperation between UNCHS and the Government of Uganda in the improvement of human settlements. He had previously visited the Masese project in Jinja, and the Habitat-executed project in Namawongo.

H.E. Mr. Cosmas Adyebo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, opened the three-day International Conference on Shelter and Economic Development, held at Kampala, Uganda, from 14 to 16 January 1992. Sponsored by the Government in collaboration with the Uganda Association of Architects, it was attended by a distinguished group of economists, planners, housing professionals and key decision-makers. Speaking on behalf of the President of Uganda, Mr. Adyebo noted Government efforts in the shelter sector, and said that Uganda's national shelter strategy (NSS) called for the participation of individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private construction firms and cooperatives in the actual building of houses. He also appealed for further assistance in the implementation of the NSS.

In his statement delivered at that occasion, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran noted the initiative taken by the Government of Uganda in formulating its NSS with the assistance of the Government of Finland and of UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Yet, formulation of the strategy was only the first step. It would need to be vigorously implemented, with consultations and consensus among the various partners working in the field of human settlements. The shelter strategy formulation process also needed to be integrated into the process of national development planning. Fortunately, the construction industry was labour-intensive, had the capacity to absorb unskilled and semiskilled labour, and generated jobs in other sectors. Furthermore, investments in human settlements had a low-import component, and were non-inflationary.

Thus "Almost everyone gains from investments in human settlements. The urban poor and urban migrants are usually able to benefit from increased income-earning opportunities that accompany human settlements development, while the rural poor profit from remittances sent home by urban migrants. These generated incomes, in turn, create demand for goods from other sectors of the economy. Governments also profit directly when they collect property taxes and charge for the use of the services they provide to the housing estates. Appropriate human settlement policies and strategies also contribute to the social and political stability of nations -- conditions which are a prerequisite for the successful implementation by governments of their economic development strategies."

Shown at the opening are, from left to right: His Excellency the Prime Minister of Uganda, the Minister of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development, and the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat). Photo by Martin Obbo. Source: the New Vision, 15 January 1992

Executive Director visits United Republic of Tanzania

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran during a visit to the United Republic of Tanzania from 9 to 12 February 1992 paid a courtesy call on Hon. John Malecela, Prime Minister and First Vice President. The Prime Minister, thanking the Executive Director for previous and ongoing UNCHS (Habitat) projects in the country, informed him about priority areas in which assistance would be appreciated. These included solid-waste disposal, the condition of roads in Dar es Salaam, unplanned squatter settlements -- particularly in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza and Mbeya, and the possible extension of the current UNCHS project in Dodoma. The Executive Director briefly outlined possible solutions, noting that he would discuss the matter in detail with the relevant officers.

At the request of the host Government, Dr. Ramachandran also addressed the country consultation held at Arusha from 11 to 13 February 1992 (see box). The consultation on land management drew 49 participants -- including two Ministers, the Attorney General, two Principal Secretaries, three former Ministers and six Members of Parliament.

> "Land is a delicate political issue in almost all countries. At the same time it is the foundation of any urban development in that its efficient and equitable management is of the utmost importance in all countries."

Dr. Ramachandran in his opening remarks explained the importance of such country consultations as a central feature of the capacity-building activities of the joint World Bank/UNDP/UNCHS Urban Management Programme (UMP). Several aspects of capacity-building are covered in such a country consultation. First, it seeks to promote a policy dialogue on an

important issue of urban management, to build consensus, agree on pressing issues, what needs to be done about them, and the modalities of action. Second, it seeks to bring together all the interests involved: central and local government officials, politicians, key actors from the private sector, academicians, and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives. Third, it seeks to achieve a definite result by ensuring not an academic debate but down-to-earth discussion of the issues, in order to come up with definite proposals for action.

The consultation was opened by the Hon. M. Komanya, Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development; Mr. N. Msimbira, Principal Secretary of that Ministry, offered a policy note and Mr. P. McAuslan of UNCHS (Habitat), Coordinator, UMP, explained further the role of UMP. Presentation of an issues paper, discussions, and working group deliberations were followed by a plenary session which agreed on general resolutions, an institutional framework and a course of action for implementation. Open and vigorous discussions by such senior actors in the shelter sector highlighted the important role the consultation would play in assisting the Government in developing its national land policy.

Dr. Ramachandran addresses Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean

A Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean took place at Santiago, Chile, from 16 to 20 March 1992. It was sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Chile, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and UNCHS (Habitat), and attended by representatives of some 26 countries, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and special guests.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the ministerial stage of the Regional Meeting, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), spoke of the enormous challenge facing countries in the region, where over 70 per cent of the population lived in urban areas -- and from 30 to 40 per cent of urban dwellers lacked adequate housing or access to such basic amenities as clean water and sewerage. He cited the cholera epidemic as resulting in painful human costs and considerable financial costs which could have been been avoided by making relatively smaller investments in sanitary facilities.

Sustainable long-term and economically viable housing strategies were required. The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 provided the principal means to meet the challenge, while UNCHS (Habitat) stood ready to assist Governments in the region. The guiding principle, as of the meeting, should, Dr. Ramachandran stated, be that there could be no national development without human development; therefore, improvements were to be made in the living and working environments of people.

The chairman of the technical meeting held at the same venue on 16 and 17 March presented the declaration it had adopted; the **Santiago Declaration** was amended by the Ministers and Authorities, who unanimously adopted it. It agreed, *inter alia*, to establish an advisory and coordinating body among the Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in the region -- to act as a permanent high-level political forum to complement the technical and financing efforts of other regional bodies. Top-level meetings will be held every two years to analyze the main topics affecting housing development, share know-how and experiences, and define cooperation objectives. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1994 in Nicaragua.

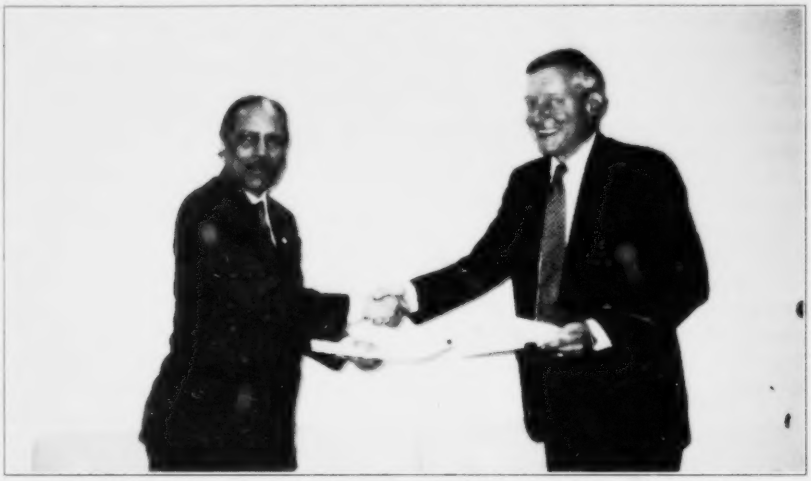
H.E. Patricio Aylwin Azocar, President of the Republic of Chile, with Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat) on his right -- with the Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean

Programme document for UMP (Phase 2) signed

Over the past five years the Urban Management Programme (UMP) has evolved into a major initiative of the United Nations family of organizations and external support agencies. Its main goal is to strengthen the contribution that cities and towns in developing countries make towards human development by focusing on economic growth, social development and the alleviation of poverty.

On 15 June 1992 the programme document for UMP Phase 2 (Project INT/92/005) was signed by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat) and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, Director, Division for Global and Inter-regional Programmes (DGIP) on behalf of UNDP. UNDP will provide $US 7.56 million to UMP (Phase 2), while a further $US 2.3 million is to be provided on a cost-sharing basis by the Governments of the Netherlands ($US 1.5 million) and Switzerland ($US 800,000). UNCHS (Habitat), the executing agency, will provide inputs corresponding to $US 4.98 million, while the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is providing inputs corresponding to $US 4.9 million over a four-year period starting July 1992.

The first immediate objective of the second phase is to strengthen and enhance existing individual and institutional capacity in urban management in the public and private sectors in developing countries at city, national and regional levels. This will include the development of transparent systems of urban management based upon clear accountability to, and the participation of, all interested persons. The second is to stimulate and sustain the study of urban management issues to develop new policy frameworks and tools to address them more effectively. Implicit in achieving both these goals is the third major objective -- facilitating the generation, management and exchange of information.



From left to right: Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat) shaking hands with Mr. Timothy Rothermel, Director, Division for Global and Inter-regional Programmes, UNDP, after signing the UMP (Phase 2) programme document

A principal strategy of this phase is the regionalisation of the capacity-building thrust. To facilitate this, regional UMP offices are being set up in the four regions of the programme: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab States. Locations for these UMP regional offices have been identified as Lomé, Togo for Africa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for Asia, and Quito, Ecuador for Latin America and the Caribbean. Cairo, Egypt is being considered as a possible location for a regional office to serve the Arab States. Regional panels of experts covering the UMP's five component areas (land management, infrastructure management, municipal finance and administration, environmental management and poverty alleviation) are being established.

Building upon urban management expertise in the developing-country regions and managed from the UMP's new regional offices, these networks of expertise will be UMP's principal means of responding to requests for UMP assistance.

The first UMP regional consultation meeting is covered elsewhere in this issue, in the regular feature on UMP.

UNCED EVENTS

As our readers are aware, UNCHS (Habitat) has been active in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. In this issue of the newsletter, we cover events of the recent past, the final stages of the road to Rio, UNCED itself, and beyond.

Eco-Urbs 92

Eco-Urbs 92, the first International Seminar on the Environmental Problems of Large Urban Centres, took place at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 24 to 29 May 1992. The objectives were to survey environmental problems and propose solutions for major urban centres all over the globe -- with special attention to advances in the big cities of developing countries. In order to define future strategies, environmental leaders, professionals and scientists met to analyze difficulties and limitations in order to create **more effective environmental cooperation between the world's large urban centres** -- towards a brighter future for all.

Following the opening session, Eco-Urbs continued with conferences, plenary sessions and round-table discussions, poster presentation panels, case studies (presented through lectures or debates), and site visits to the Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo Metropolitan Regions.

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), presented as his keynote address "An analysis of the environmental problems of large urban centres". In it he noted the need for new thinking, new policies and decisive actions at the local level in many and varied places worldwide. Rising levels of urbanization in the developing world were increasing the pressures on the urban environment, and environmental degradation was closely linked to poverty. He cited examples of the pollution caused by industries and vehicles, the absence of adequate sanitation, water supply and waste disposal, and the lack of sound housing.

What can be done to meet such problems in a time of budgetary and human resource constraints? "Certainly a necessary first step towards improving urban environmental conditions in developing countries is the improvement of urban management practice as well as the devolution of authority and resources to local levels of decision-making." Looking beyond the local, and even the national level, he called for sharing of ideas and "clean" technologies to broaden the options of developing countries. Such sharing would, he stated, have to include "greater cooperation among the cities of the world, whether developed or developing"

Meeting of Mayors and International Association of Cities

Four international cities associations -- the United Towns Organization, the International Union of Local Authorities, Metropolis and the Summit Conference of Major Cities of the World held a meeting immediately before the Earth Summit -- expressing the voice of local authorities and seeking to ensure that urban issues would be among the major issues of UNCED. Meeting on 1 and 2 June, they examined local environmental policy, explored the possibilities of inter-city cooperation, and discussed the nature of relations between local authorities and the United Nations system.

In his statement to that meeting, Dr. Ramachandran spoke of international meetings of cities and international associations of cities and local authorities over the past year, singling out the Rio Declaration of January 1992. **The World Urban Forum**, held at **Curitiba**, Brazil on 27 May, at which the UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director had also spoken, came up with a similar declaration. That meeting was attended by Brazilian Federal Authorities, the state governor and authorities, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, representatives of the United Nations family, and of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Indeed, the core of the Curitiba commitment (see box), and all such declarations, Dr. Ramachandran said, was that "mitigation of environmental problems and the preservation of the integrity of global ecology [would] depend on creativity and innovations at the municipal level, in cities both large and small, and in both developed and developing countries". Such qualities would, he added, be demanded not only from city officials, but also from private enterprise, from institutions of scientific research and from the local community as a whole, dispelling the predictions of those who view urbanization as a disaster for our planet, and making the world of the next century one of sustainable cities.

The Curitiba Commitment to Sustainable Development, a companion document to the Common Declaration on behalf of the World's Cities and Local Government Authorities adopted in Rio de Janeiro on 15 January 1992 for presentation to UNCED, was the product of several conferences of local governments and authorities on environmental issues, brought together under the auspices of the four organizers of the Meeting of Mayors. The following commitments were made, with the same four associations to coordinate implementation of corresponding action plans.

Commitments

1. As a first step, work to extend basic services to all citizens without additional environmental degradation.
2. Progressively increase energy efficiency.
3. Progressively reduce all forms of pollution.
4. Waste the minimum and economize the maximum.
5. Combat social and gender inequality and poverty.
6. Prioritize the needs of children and the realization of their rights.
7. Integrate environmental planning and economic development.
8. Increase involvement of all sectors of the community in environmental management.
9. Mobilize resources to increase cooperation among local authorities.

UNCED

Immediately before the Conference, UNCHS (Habitat) cooperated actively with the UNCED Secretariat in preparation of the first special event to be held during the Conference -- a **panel presentation on "The Urban Challenge"**. The 3 June event attracted a full-capacity audience composed of official delegates, representatives of agencies, NGOs, mayors and representatives of various groups and associations, including the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

Statements were made by mayors and representatives of international local government and city associations, and by NGO representatives. A statement was also given by the Minister of Physical Planning of the Government of Sweden, H.E. Ms. Gorel Thurdin, who underlined the roles of central and local governments as partners in sustainable development objectives and announced that her Government had recently decided to make a substantive contribution to the UNDP/World Bank/UNCHS(Habitat) **Urban Management Programme**. (See newspaper article, page 19.)

The special event was followed by a **press conference** also attended by the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. Ramachandran on 3 June 1992 also attended the **UNCED Local Authorities Honours Programme Ceremony**, the purpose of which was to honour 12 municipalities and mayors that had carried out valuable work promoting sustainable development at the local level. In the photograph, he is shown with Maurice Strong, Secretary General of UNCED, and Jeb Brugmann, Secretary General of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

At the end of the awards ceremony, Mr. Strong highlighted the role played by UNCHS (Habitat) in placing human settlements and urban issues in the mainstream of the UNCED preparatory process, and added that the prospects of success for Agenda 21 were inextricably linked to the role to be played by cities and other human settlements in translating Agenda 21 goals into realities at the local level.

Speaking at the **plenary session** of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Dr. Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), characterized the Earth Summit as "not just a conference, it is history moving (for once) in the right direction". Yet it would have achieved very little in the eyes of a vast segment of humanity unless it could pave the way to real progress in improving their immediate day-to-day living environment.

"...[W]hen it comes to matters of the environment and sustainable development, a human settlements approach and a focus on cities and towns, the world over, is not only conducive but indispensable to success." The agenda for sustainable development would therefore have to contain an urban agenda which could guarantee economic growth while safeguarding urban environmental sustainability, provide escape from poverty and a better working and living environment for all.

This message, he noted, had emerged from the meetings of mayors and international associations of cities over the past year, including those held in Rio and Curitiba in the preceding few weeks. Fortunately steps had been taken with the inclusion in Agenda 21 of a specific human settlements programme, and of appropriate human settlements components in other relevant programme areas. What remained was the will to commit the resources required to assure a decent living environment for every member of the human race.

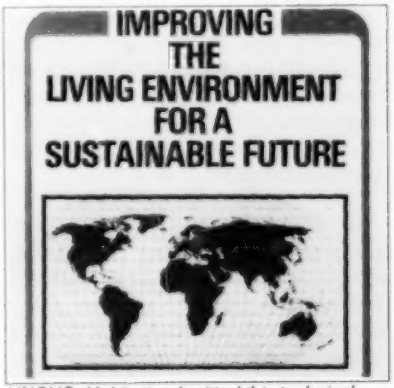
The **Conference** had before it a number of documents of relevance to human settlements, the main one being Chapter 7, Promoting Sustainable Human Settlements Development, which provided the overall framework of reference for UNCED follow-up activities in the area of human settlements. That chapter was adopted by the Main Committee without substantive changes.

UNCHS (Habitat) distributed to delegates at the Plenary the publication *Improving the living environment for a sustainable future, an action-oriented programme designed for implementing Agenda 21*.

As an immediate UNCED follow-up, Mr. Strong contacted the UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director with regard to an initiative being undertaken by the **City of São Paulo** to establish a permanent facility to strengthen research, training and information exchange among the major cities of the world. UNCHS will provide technical support in the further elaboration of the proposal, with a view to harmonizing it with ongoing international and global programmes -- notably the Urban Management Programme, the Sustainable Cities Programme and the City Data Programme.

UNCHS also actively participated in **NGO events** organized by the parallel "Global Forum". Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), addressed the **International Seminar on Sustainable Transportation and Development**, held from 2 to 4 June 1992, and convened by the Institute of Technology for the Citizen, with the World Bank and MacArthur Foundation as sponsors. The seminar aimed at setting a new agenda for transportation conducive to economically and environmentally sustainable transport systems affordable by all, in which public and non-motorized transport modes would be effectively used to meet people's mobility requirements.

Addressing the seminar, Dr. Ramachandran pointed out that such an agenda should include substantial changes not only in technology, as had been seen in recent years, but also in people's travel behaviour, in the organization of human activities and in the physical development patterns of human settlements. A long-range solution could be found only by adopting an inter-sectoral approach integrating such diverse policy domains as regional development, land use, and industrial,



UNCHS (Habitat) submitted this technical publication at UNCED.

energy and fiscal policies as well as transport policies themselves. Strong human settlements management, smooth inter-agency cooperation and effective land-use/transportation planning were the indispensable means to modify and reduce the demand for transport, avoid an excessive reliance on motor vehicles in private use, and balance transport demand and supply in a way compatible with the requirements of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Other NGO events attended by UNCHS (Habitat) included two **Women and Shelter Network workshops** organized by Habitat International Coalition (HIC): "an International Panel on "Improving the working and living environment of poor urban women", organized by the Graduate School and University Centre of the City University of New York; and the Ecopolis-City of the Future Exhibition organized by the International Academy of Architecture (see poster). The first was designed to encourage environmental specialists to adequately address issues pertinent to working women and their families in urban communities. UNCHS (Habitat) sponsored the participation of H.E. Ms. T. Siwale, a Member of Parliament in the United Republic of Tanzania, who chaired the panel on "Women's living and working environment in urban settlements". Ms. Catalina Hinchey Trujillo explained UNCHS (Habitat) activities for women in various countries.

Photograph from the HIC workshop in Rio. Photo credit: Diana Lee-Smith

The **Rio Declaration** on Ecopolis-City of the Future, *inter alia*, stressed the critical role and contribution of human settlements and urbanization to sustainable development based on a harmonious environment and the undertaking of environmental impact assessment based on post-UNCED updated

environmental guidelines for human settlements planning and management.

"Planning for sustainable development: Solutions for the 1990s"

The Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI) held its biennial congress in Canberra from 26 to 30 April 1992 on the theme "Planning for sustainable development: Solutions for the 1990s". The Congress was also sponsored by the Local Government Planners Association and the Australian Association of Consulting Planners.

Major addresses to plenary sessions and keynote addresses to concurrent sessions were supplemented by workshops. Among the speakers offering plenary addresses were H.E. Brian Howe, Deputy Prime Minister of the host country and Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services, and Mr. U. Naiker of UNCHS (Habitat), who spoke of that agency's efforts towards achieving sustainable development in the field of human settlements (see box).

"The global urban agenda now focuses on four immediate objectives. First, the **alleviation of poverty**, emphasizing labour-intensive productive activities centred in the private sector and in low-income communities, and the organization and empowerment of communities so that they can identify local needs and priorities, and actively participate in the planning, managing and pricing of improvements. Secondly, the **improvement of urban environmental conditions**, which have considerably undercut human health and the quality of life. Thirdly, **fostering participatory approaches and organizational arrangements.** Given the weak capacity of government to meet the growing requirements for urban infrastructure and services, municipal authorities need to encourage participation of the private sector, community organizations, NGOs and womens' groups. Fourthly, the promotion of **urban productivity** by removing key constraints such as infrastructure deficiencies, restrictive regulatory frameworks, weak municipal institutions and inadequate financial services for urban development."

Topics ranged across a wide variety of concerns, from "problems with housing statistics" through "cars, chaos, eccentrics and sustainability" to "the politics of sustainability" -- with examples not only from Australia (e.g., "moving Melbourne") but elsewhere as well, such as "sustainable urban development for Ottawa" and "Rail transportation in California".

Meeting on governmental/non-governmental cooperation in the field of human settlements, The Hague

UNCHS (Habitat) and the Government of the Netherlands have organized a meeting on governmental/non-governmental cooperation in the field of human settlements, to take place on 2 to 6 November 1992 at The Hague, the Netherlands. It is pursuant to resolution 13/16 of the Commission on Human Settlements, which recognized the need to formulate modalities for increasing cooperation between NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and governments -- to maximize their combined efforts in the development and management of human settlements.

Areas of cooperation include the following:

- **community-level cooperation**, between CBOs, NGOs and local government bodies. NGOs need to be strengthened to promote grassroots initiatives and to improve their role as intermediary support bodies for CBOs. Mechanisms to allow the poor to negotiate access to land and finance need to be improved.
- **the role of women**, who have always played an active part in human settlements development. Their role and contribution need to be strengthened by an explicit recognition of their potential -- and supported through improved

cooperation between NGOs, CBOs and governments.

- **government actions to aid cooperation** need to be examined at different levels (local, metropolitan, provincial and national), with an eye to shared responsibilities and resources between the three above actors, increasing private-sector shelter operations.
- **international actions**, including the strengthening of North-South cooperation among NGOs, increased cooperation between governments, NGOs and CBOs at the international level, and between UNCHS (Habitat) and NGOs;
- **UNCED follow-up**, including the identification of programmes and projects where NGOs can be especially effective in incorporating environmental and sustainable development dimensions into programmes and projects following on from Agenda 21.

Participants will include senior policy-makers from Governments who are or will be directly involved in the formulation and implementation of their national shelter strategy; representatives of governments of the industrialized countries which are supporting human settlements NGOs and CBOs in their own countries and/or in developing countries; NGOs and CBOs from industrialized countries providing support and cooperation to their sister organizations in developing countries, and representatives of the latter. International and regional NGOs, United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations active in the field of human settlements, and selected training and research institutions will also participate.

SPECIAL ADVISORY SERVICES: HOUSING FINANCE SERVICES PROVIDED

Asia and the Pacific

The thrust of providing the appropriate housing-finance advisory service is to initiate housing-finance modules that enable sustainable systems that are viable, whenever practicable without donor assistance. Furthermore, wherever possible, nationally replicable housing-finance projects are recommended either as new projects or as additions to existing projects.

In line with prevailing cultural practices, quite often it has been possible to facilitate the acquisition of a house by the poor and the landless by bypassing institutional barriers. The requirement of collateral by the banks is an example of the kind of barrier that keeps the poor permanently in the vicious circle of "low-income - low savings - low investment - low income". This can be broken by injecting **credit** in the cycle, which then becomes "credit - more income - more savings - more investment - more income".

Secondly, housing is not a "one-off affair". Borrowers in the low-income group spend much more than the amount disbursed as housing loans and, over time, they also make incremental investments in either upgrading their existing living unit or adding on extra living space. This clearly supports the critical premise that the poor improve their housing status, only after strengthening their material staying power.

Thus, the housing finance circuit is in effect, a triangle, the three sides of the triangle being the financing of the micro-enterprise sector, development of the corporate and informal savings mechanism, and the injection of credit.

Requests for the provision of specialised housing finance advisory services in the 1990-1991 biennium have emanated from a number of countries in the region, notably from Brunei, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. These were delivered in chronological order, as follows.

In **Pakistan**, practical assistance was provided to finalize the section relating to housing finance in the draft national housing policy. Among other factors, this involved recommendations to set up the National Housing Bank, creating the right conditions for the entry of the State Life Insurance Corporation into the mainstream of the housing-finance circuit, spearheading the "Own Your Home" scheme, the utilization of the potential available with the First Women's Bank Limited to examine the possibility of establishing an urban infrastructure bank that could specifically relate to *katchi abadis* (squatter settlements), the design of an integrated approach to the informal financial systems, the diversion of excess liquidity within the banking system into realistic investment postures (investment in low-cost housing included), and the strengthening of the seven *marla* (or about 175 square metres) scheme for the rural poor and the three *marla* (about 75 square metres) scheme for the urban poor.

Because of the small size of **Brunei** and the fact that 80 per cent of the population are in service either in government or in the oil and gas industry, housing requirements are presently met by the welfare-state approach. In the Government's new, pragmatic attempts to transform this approach, the housing-finance advisory service concentrated on the mechanics of privatization of the International Bank of Brunei, the establishment of a pension fund (a traditional corporate conduit for housing finance), the investment of loanable funds available with commercial and merchant banks, the introduction of various savings instruments, and the purchase of building materials centrally by the State Stores and Supplies Department to reduce costs and minimize non-performance by building contractors.

In the **Maldives**, the absence of a stated set of regulations governing the process of housing delivery makes housing an under-used resource. Specific housing-finance advisory service was rendered to the Selected Islands Development Unit (SIDU)

which based its strategy upon the tripod of urban planning, growth-centre planning and urban decentralization. The service centred around the development of group collateral as a credible option and the creation of self-help housing schemes and the Building Materials Loan Scheme. The development of human resources was part of the process.

In **Myanmar**, all land belongs to the State. Therefore the problem of delivering land for the supply of low-income housing must take into account the mechanisms of land supply for the urban poor, land leasing and land readjustment, which necessarily compose the main elements of housing finance. This approach involves several links with both the macro and the micro aspects of shelter provision and as such, the advisory service encompassed both the formal and informal sectors, and the design of cost recovery procedures through end-user charges.

In **the Philippines**, vital new components were advanced for incorporation in the housing-finance strategy as responses to the natural disasters -- the two typhoons, the earthquake in Baguio and the eruption of the Mt. Pinatubo volcano. These natural disasters resulted only in aggravating the problem of housing backlog, so that a new set of housing finance guidelines had to be generated to take into account the value of damaged structures.

In **Indonesia**, there is a proliferation of NGOs operating at various levels of competence and accountability. They are a vital force in mobilizing the resource base of the informal sector; consequently, it was necessary to integrate NGO efforts into the mainstream housing-delivery process. The housing-finance institution set up by the Government to deal with housing loans falls short of current challenges, and a strategy was suggested to extend non-collateral loans to the poor and the landless.

Similarly, in **Nepal**, it is Government policy to rehabilitate people living in the hill tracts on to the plains and here again this relocation process involves a strategy to extend non-collateral loans to the people so displaced, and also to provide the seed capital to generate employment in their new locations.

Sri Lanka requires further advice on the development of unit trusts as a substantial input into their national finance conduit, and UNCHS will be assisting them in developing this complex capital market operation which would relate to operations in both the corporate and the informal sectors.

The UNCHS (Habitat) pilot project in Madras, **India**, was a consequence of the housing-finance advisory service which resulted in the building of houses for low-income earners by first providing a small loan to increase the earning potential followed by a loan for housing. Some loans were non-collateral, others tied to the institutional banking system. The project is unique in that it combined access to a housing loan, training in low-cost housing techniques, and employment generation -- important for women who are now gainfully employed as trained masons. Furthermore, this proven project framework has been adopted in other areas of the country. See next page for illustrations.

In **Papua New Guinea**, the Government is actively involved in changing its role from provider to that of enabler and facilitator of the housing delivery process. Given governmental will and determination to resolve the present complex land issue, the building of the asset base and the short-term objective to create a private housing market tend to be the particular focus of the housing finance advisory service. Consequently, this involves the moduling and fine-tuning of the newly formed National Housing Corporation to enable this authority to address long-term needs of various target groups; and to interface such savings against credit facilities of participating financial institutions in the country. Several innovative mechanisms have already been put in place, and an on-going advisory service is provided to further refine and strengthen existing mechanisms.

The next issue of this newsletter will continue with a look at housing-finance advisory services in the **Africa region**.

Geneva Office active

■ The road from Rio -- Meeting human settlements objectives

Addressing the Third Annual Board of Directors Meeting of the Hassan Fathy Institute on 25 June 1992 in Geneva, Lars Ludvigsen, Habitat Information Office for Western Europe, spoke of settlements, environment and development. He cited Agenda 21 as one of the most important outcomes of the Conference, as it states the basis of action for sustainable development, sets out explicit objectives, activities to be undertaken, and the means of implementation. "However, Agenda 21 is not just the work programme emerging from the Conference, but also a mechanism to enable the international community to cooperate effectively in actions leading towards sustainable development."

After listing the specific action points in eight programme areas for the promotion of sustainable human settlements development (see box), he commented on the latter two. With regard to the construction industry, the need was to meet development goals while avoiding harmful side effects yet enhancing employment generation. As for human-resource development and capacity-building, three problems would have to be overcome: the absence of an enabling policy environment, the weakness of specialized training and research institutions, and the inadequacy of technical training and assistance for low-income communities.

1. Providing adequate shelter for all
2. Improving human settlements management
3. Promoting sustainable land-use planning and management
4. Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage, hazardous and solid waste management
5. Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements
6. Promoting human settlements planning and management in disaster-prone areas
7. Promoting construction industry activities
8. Promoting human-resource development and capacity-building for human-settlements development

In conclusion he stressed that, with regard to human settlements "the UNCED process has been a remarkable lever and promoter ... to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, but in particular the urban and rural poor".

New York Office active

■ Symposium on Low-cost housing

A Symposium on Low-cost Housing, organized by MIM, the Society of Turkish Architects, Engineers and Scientists in

UNCHS (Habitat) special advisor, Mr. George Joseph, with group at Madras

Stages in the process

America, and sponsored by the UNCHS New York Office, took place in New York on 11 April 1992.

The Panel consisted of Mr. Ganti Rao and Ms. Aliye P. Celik of the UNCHS Office at New York; Dr. Raci Bademli, Director of Construction, Ankara Municipality (invited to New York by MIM for this meeting); Prof. Richard Plunz from Columbia University; and Prof. Michael Schwarting from the New York Institute of Technology. Ms. Beyhan Karahan from the same Institute and MIM President, chaired the symposium.

Mr. Rao gave a speech on "world perspective on low-cost housing", and Ms. Celik explained the situation of the Turkish construction sector in the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS). Dr. Bademli talked about housing and urban planning problems in Ankara, the political clout in squatter areas and the informal sector, the existing potentials and difficulties. He outlined several affordable housing projects undertaken by the Ankara municipality, offering interesting solutions. The two professors talked more about design and development projects for affordable housing. There was a lengthy and lively discussion period.

■ "Women, the working environment and sustainable development in urban communities"

The December 1991 issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS noted (p. 13) Senator Nakanishi's role in an international symposium of that title held in New York on 20 and 21 September. We now have the Symposium report, and can offer further details.

The two-day meeting provided a forum for discussion of the problems, potential solutions and the exchange of information on the working environment of women in urban communities. The Symposium brought together international and national policy-makers, academicians, employers, trade unions and funding agencies concerned with urban environmental issues and action programmes. The programme format combined keynote addresses, topical panels, thematic small-group dialogues and informal gatherings which facilitated communication and information exchange. Round-table discussions at the conclusion of the five panels, addressed a specified set of pertinent questions as well as further action in conjunction with UNCED and the feasibility of establishing a clearing-house for information on women and their working environment.

As part of a panel on "international action -- United Nations agencies finding solutions through collaborative action", Ms. Aliye P. Celik, UNCHS (Habitat), spoke of women's contribution to the human-settlements sector and to the GSS. Five regional seminars bringing grassroots women and NGOs together had been carried out, culminating in an interregional seminar at Nairobi. It was noted that women's groups were not aware that housing was a special subject and that women should participate directly in housing policies. Women should be informed of their right to housing, and land reform was essential to provide equal opportunities to men and women. Ms. Celik pointed out that the construction sector provided opportunities for the employment of women; training and market research were required so that they could enter the sector.

A follow-up one-day International Symposium/Workshop on "improving the working and living environment of poor urban women" took place in Rio de Janeiro. It is covered in the earlier article on UNCED-related events.

Contribution to the International Year of the Family, IYF-1994

As UNCHS (Habitat)'s work programme is concerned with achieving adequate living conditions through the creation of an appropriate built environment, its activities directly affect the quality of life of the world's growing number of households and families. Practically all its subprogrammes have a direct and immediate impact on the conditions under which families are living, both in urban and rural environments. These conditions are fundamentally determined by security of tenure, quality and size of housing, a safe and reliable water supply, hygienic sanitary facilities, access to education and health facilities, sources of employment and means of transport. Poor living conditions have a tremendous detrimental effect on families' ability to survive and to prosper. The growing demand on the role of families in a changing society can only be met if these conditions provide an adequate, and healthy environment.

UNCHS (Habitat) is fully aware of the crucial role of women in this effort. Women constitute a visible majority of the poor, and an increasingly large number of families are either solely or largely supported by women. Human settlements projects aiming at improving the living conditions of the poor cannot be effective unless women participate in their planning and implementation. UNCHS (Habitat) is actively working to enhance women's involvement at all levels of settlement management, including policy-making and decision-making. Its Strategy on Women in Human Settlements Development is summarized in the Strategy for the Full Participation of Women in all Phases of the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

UNCHS (Habitat) has identified its **Community Development Programme**, financed under a co-operation agreement between UNCHS (Habitat) and the Government of Denmark, as the agency's

The whole family gets involved when it comes to housing

specific contribution towards the objectives of the International Year of the Family. The Programme, which is operational in selected developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, works together with poor urban and rural communities. With the help of the practical learning-by-doing activities, families in poor neighbourhoods are assisted in managing their living environment, and become capable of acting on their development needs with technical competence and organizational responsibility. Thus it offers a practical application to one of the strategies of the International Year of the Family to support families in their role as agents of change at the local level.

Habitat II: Report to General Assembly

On 19 December 1991, following upon Commission on Human Settlements resolution 13/2, the General Assembly decided (resolution 46/164) to consider at its forty-seventh session convening, possibly in 1997, a United Nations conference on human settlements, Habitat II. Such a "world-wide conference with broad, multidisciplinary and high-level participation" could, that resolution stated, "provide a suitable forum for considering the current situation in the planning, development and management of human settlements in the context of prevailing and expected social, economic and environmental conditions". The resolution went on to request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), to prepare a report on the objectives, content, scope and financial implications of such a conference, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The report is presently with the General Assembly.

Dr. Ramachandran visits Pakistan

Beginning on 24 August 1992, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran visited Pakistan. He paid a courtesy call on Hon. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of Pakistan, on 25 August. Their meeting ranged over various subjects, including housing finance, the indigenous building materials industry, and national planning.

Other high-level discussions focused on the overall UNCHS (Habitat) programme in Pakistan, and the development of new activities. A meeting chaired by the Minister for Environment and Urban Affairs, H.E. Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, included staff from that Ministry, representatives from the four provinces, the Capital Development Authority, and Karachi Development Authority. Both the Minister and the various provincial representatives expressed their priorities for cooperation with UNCHS (Habitat).

The Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, in his meeting with Dr. Ramachandran noted the importance of assistance to the development of towns and small cities, particularly in the provision of services, and remarked that there was a need for further development of building materials. The link between housing efforts and community development was stressed.

The Minister of State for Economic Affairs, H.E. Mr. Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali, discussed the various projects recently undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat). The flood rehabilitation project in Punjab received attention, and the desirability of establishing a disaster mitigation centre was mentioned.

The Hon. Mr. Syed Mazhar Ali, Member of the Senate, gave a guided tour of the Maymar Housing Development in Karachi. The Karachi Development Authority made presentations of the Master Plan and Coastal Development projects, while the Capital Development Authority offered an hour-long presentation on the development of Islamabad.

On 7 July 1992 the Government of Pakistan approved a national action plan for housing to reduce pressure on urban centres, develop intermediate and secondary towns and mobilize resources for housing by drawing on the private sector and personal savings.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the Federal Minister for Environment and Urban Affairs stated, "We have suggested the role of provider and developer for the private sector while the Government is to serve as facilitator, coordinator and catalyst."

Danida/UNCHS (Habitat) Annual Consultation

In September 1991 a new cooperation agreement between the Danish Government (Danida) and UNCHS (Habitat) was signed. It marked the culmination of more than eight years of cooperation between Denmark and the Centre. This programme has over the years developed practical techniques for training and motivating communities in participating in the development and improvement of their own settlements. With the new agreement, a continuation of this programme is assured along with other activities which have Danida's priority attention.

■ Focus on poverty alleviation

The new five year cooperation agreement ($US 15.5 million) focuses on further development of communities' capacities to manage the physical and socio-economic development and improvement of their settlements in order to improve their living and working conditions. The activities under the Community Development Programme will, through projects in seven countries, assist in developing and refining methods and strategies for informal training of residents (planning, construction, monitoring, etc.), define and make programmes, promote environmental awareness, support employment networks and support community management training. In all countries there is a specific focus on participation and on promoting women and youth programmes.

The agreement has several new components. Within the area of environmental health and sanitation, a new activity has been initiated: Crowding and health in low-income settlements in developing countries. The objective is to formulate recommendations for human settlements improvements, taking into account indicators on the health impact of crowding and overall settlements conditions. The output will be addressed to urban managers, architects, engineers and health planners, and concerned communities.

Under the Urban Management Programme, Danida is seconding a senior environmental adviser who is working within the Programme team specifically on environmental issues such as sector investments, institutional strengthening, capacity-building, participatory approaches to urban environmental strategies, etc.

■ Women

In the Danida policy priorities, women in development play an important role.

Therefore, women's issues are specifically addressed in all the various activities under the agreement. There is also a separate component in the agreement on Women in Human Settlements Development. This formulates and promotes strategies for the full participation of women in all phases of the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, implements workshops on gender-aware approaches to human settlements development, conducts research on the living conditions of women-headed households in the selected countries and prepares a training module and workshop on women and sustainable development etc.

■ The Trust Fund

The last of the current activities under the agreement is the Danida Trust Fund. It was established in 1989 to support preparatory assistance missions, through the engagement of Danish consultants or consultancy companies. Danish companies have already contributed to successful missions, and the arrangement has resulted in growing cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and Danish experts.

■ Policy direction

The annual consultation between Danida and UNCHS (Habitat) will take place in Nairobi 14 and 15 September 1992 with the participation of Ms. Birte Poulsen, Chief, Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark and the Permanent Representative to UNCHS (Habitat),H.E. Ambassador, Erik Fiil, Royal Danish Embassy, Nairobi. The Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, will open the meeting and a number of UNCHS (Habitat) staff will attend. In addition to reviewing the progress of the programme components, the meeting will outline the direction for the main policy areas to be pursued in the following years by UNCHS (Habitat) within the framework of the agreement.

UNCHS (Habitat) and the Russian Federation to cooperate on planning and development of human settlements

UNCHS (Habitat) and the Russian Federation and have agreed to cooperate in the improvement and development of human settlements through a variety of joint activities on a whole range of human settlements issues.

In a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 9 September 1992 on behalf of the Russian Federation by H.E. Mr. B.A. Furmanov, Minister for Architecture, Construction, Housing and Municipal Services, and Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), on behalf of the Centre, the areas for cooperation identified are research and development, technical cooperation, and information.

Specific projects discussed for the 1992-1993 biennium to be financed largely from the voluntary contribution of the Russian Federation to UNCHS (Habitat) include:

- Support to the Habitat Executive Bureau in Moscow;
- Implementation mechanisms for the Russian Federation's new housing policy;
- Establishment of an audio-visual unit in the Habitat Executive Bureau in Moscow;
- Assistance to the areas of the Russian Federation affected by radiation.

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding are the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, and the Minister for Architecture, Construction, Housing and Municipal Services of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. B.A. Furmanov – with the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to UNCHS (Habitat), H.E. Mr. Vladimir Kitaev, on their right.

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

Events at the Earth Summit

The International President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (Human Settlements and Sustainable Development) or GPH, Executive Board Chairman of GPH and a number of other GPH members took an active part in the events (some of which they co-sponsored or organized) on the occasion of the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. A brief report follows.

"Urban Challenge"

Hon. Robert L. Wenman, Canadian Member of Parliament and Chairman, Executive Board of GPH; Senator Tamako Nakanishi of Japan, International President of GPH; and Senator Hector J. Velazquez of Argentina, GPH Board Member; attended the UNCED/UNCHS-sponsored special event entitled "Urban Challenge". Mr. Wenman expressed the support of GPH both for the Conclusion on Local Action for Global Survival which had been reached in Curitiba (see separate article under UNCHS activities) and for the efforts of UNCHS (Habitat) and UNDP for sustainable urban management and development. Similarly, Senator Nakanishi emphasized the importance of improving human settlements as a substantive framework for sustainable development, and stressed the need to drastically increase United Nations expenditure on the development of environmentally-sound human settlements and their infrastructure.

Parliamentary Earth Summit

The Parliamentary Earth Summit, attended by parliamentarians of more than 160 countries, took place from 5 to 7 June under the co-sponsorship of the National Congress of Brazil and the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival. GPH members from Argentina, Indonesia and Japan attended the meeting. Senator Nakanishi in her capacity as International President of GPH emphasized the need for strengthening democracy, disclosure of information, and greater participation of people at all levels, particularly in the decision-making process. H.E. Ms. S. Isnomo, a Member of Parliament from Indonesia, also addressed the meeting.

GPH Forum on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development

On 9 June, at the request of GPH members attending UNCED, a Forum on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development was held. Its organizer, Senator Nakanishi, spoke of the organization's concern for improving the living and working environment of people, especially the urban and rural poor -- a concern to be expressed in the Rio Declaration. Chairing the Forum, she introduced the other speakers, officials whose presentations were followed by question-and-answer periods. Two of those who were active in those discussions -- a woman parliamentarian from Lebanon and another from the United Republic of Tanzania -- applied for membership in GPH at the end of the Forum.

International Symposium on Poor Urban Women: Improving their living and working environment

This Symposium, which took place on 8 June, was organized by the Center for the Study of Women and Society, City University of New York, in collaboration with the Japan Habitat Association and UNCHS (Habitat). Further details appear under UNCHS activities.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

ACC Task Force on Rural Development

■ Joint Meeting of the Monitoring and Evaluation Panel and the Panel on People's Participation, Administrative Coordinating Committee (ACC) Task Force on Rural Development, 20-21 April, 1992, Washington DC

The joint meeting, which was held shortly before the main annual meeting of the Administrative Coordinating Committee (ACC) Task Force on Rural Development in New York, was hosted by the World Bank and was jointly chaired by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). There were 16 participants representing 12 agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. UNCHS (Habitat) was represented by Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues relating to participatory evaluation, with specific reference to rural environmental projects and programmes. There were two main presentations by ILO and IFAD.

It was generally agreed that participatory organizations tend to manage local resources more efficiently if their livelihoods are directly dependent on the resources which they control and that participatory management of local resources should be implemented within the context of local production activities. It was also agreed that participatory evaluation should continue to be an important topic of the two panels, jointly, and that the next task for the panels would be to review existing guidelines on participatory evaluation, with the ultimate aim of producing consolidated guidelines for use by all member agencies.

■ Twentieth Meeting of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, 22 - 24 April, 1992, New York

The twentieth meeting of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development was hosted by UNDP and was chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was attended by 25 representatives of 21 United Nations agencies and organizations, including UNCHS (Habitat) .

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review progress made in 1991 by member agencies of the Task Force in rural development activities, as broadly defined in the "World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) Programme of Action";
- Discuss rural development activities planned by all member agencies for the forthcoming biennium;
- Review progress made by member agencies during 1991 in the implementation of the "Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies Toward the Year 2000 for Rural Women";
- Consider reports from the "Joint Meeting of the Panels on Monitoring and Evaluation and People's Participation" (dealing with the subject of participatory monitoring and evaluation in rural environmental projects and programmes) and from the meeting of the Task Force's Working Group on Industrial Contribution to Rural Development (dealing mainly with progress in the preparation of an issues paper on rural industry and poverty alleviation); and
- Consider a report by UNDP on the impact of national economic structural adjustment policies on the rural poor.

UNCHS (Habitat) presented a paper entitled "An Enabling Approach to Shelter Improvement in Rural Areas as a Contribution to Sustainable Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation". The paper emphasized the fact that poor shelter is one of the manifestations of rural poverty and argued that shelter improvement will contribute to efforts aimed at poverty alleviation in two main ways: by improving conditions in one of the dimensions of material poverty; and by improving incomes through the generation of employment in the areas of building-materials production and construction. With regard to the enabling approach, the paper emphasized the necessity for reorientation of the role of the public sector in shelter provision by concentrating on addressing the fundamental issue of access to land, technology and finance. The role of non-governmental and community-based organizations, as well as individual households, was also highlighted, particularly with regard to mobilization of financial and labour resources. On the issue of sustainable development, the paper stressed that, in order to maximize employment generation, rural shelter policies should emphasize the following aspects: use of locally available resources; use of appropriate and labour-intensive technologies; and self-reliance; particularly in terms of financial resources. These policy issues were illustrated through three case studies of rural shelter projects in Bangladesh, Ecuador and Malawi.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Urban Management Programme

■ UMP holds first regional consultation meeting

The Urban Management Programme (UMP) held its first regional consultation meeting on 18 and 19 June 1992 at Kuala Lumpur. The meeting, which 25 senior government officials from 10 countries in Asia attended, discussed the critical urban issues faced by the countries of the region with a view of formulating a framework for the UMP regional operational component in **Asia and the Pacific**.

With the approval of the global UMP Phase 2 (INT/92/005), which focuses on capacity-building for urban management at the municipal and national levels and the strengthening of regional networks and institutions that deal with urban issues, UMP has begun setting up its regional programmes. The Kuala Lumpur meeting was organized by UNCHS (Habitat) in cooperation with the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia as the initial step in determining the scope, areas of focus, and possible modalities of UMP in the Asia and Pacific region. Similar meetings are being planned in Nairobi for the Programme in sub-Saharan Africa, in Quito for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Cairo for North Africa and the Arab States.

The countries which participated in the Kuala Lumpur meeting were Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) participated as observers. The meeting was opened by the mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Tan Sri Elyas Omar, who shared with the participants his view of urban management as a mayor operating at the local level. He cited Kuala Lumpur's six priority concerns: housing, public transportation, employment, social development, environment and infrastructure. Making a reference to community involvement in urban management, he added that cities could deteriorate rapidly without proper maintenance; thus it was vital that people start looking after their surroundings. Referring to the relationship between the city and central government, he said that central government might not be able to appreciate localized problems such as potholes, since it had to deal with nationwide concerns, yet those very potholes indirectly reflected the lack of funds for road maintenance in the country. He also mentioned the problem of the city in garbage disposal, which required new sites, but acquiring them involved locations outside the city boundaries as well as clearances from numerous central government agencies.

■ Seven major themes highlighted

The participants identified the priority urban issues in their respective countries. From the discussions which elaborated on these issues, **seven major themes** emerged.

These are:

(1) Environment

- solid-waste management
- sewerage and drainage
- air pollution
- environmental protection, including public safety;

(2) Infrastructure

- urban mass transport
- water supply and sewerage
- basic utilities
- communications
- standards
- maintenance;

(3) Land

- urban land information; land registry
- land-use planning and management at the national *vis-à-vis* local levels
- land-use regulations;

(4) Housing

- lack of housing for low-income groups in urban areas
- squatting
- slum upgrading;

(5) Urban poverty

- role of the informal sector, e.g. hawkers
- private-sector participation
- access to job opportunities
- generation of urban employment;

(6) Finance

- lack of funds for urban management
- low levels of municipal finance and administration
- financial resource mobilization and utilization at the municipal level
- local revenue management
- sustainability of financing of urban development needs;

(7) General policy

- lack of commitment to urban management; need for an urban lobby
- weak institutional framework at all levels
- need for a national urbanization policy
- need for more effective coordination mechanisms among sectoral agencies and between all levels of government
- accountability of municipal governments

- capacity-building for planning, implementation, operation and maintenance
- information exchange with the urban population.

In the ensuing discussion of how these issues might be effectively addressed, the participants evolved a matrix to provide a framework for determining the best possible approach, e.g., political, policy-oriented, institutional, managerial, etc. The participants were unanimous that each country had very specific needs and resources to meet those needs; therefore the matrix had to be adapted to specific country situations and broad issues elaborated in the context of specific circumstances.

■ Ingredients for success

The discussion proceeded on the key ingredients necessary to carry out improvements in urban management in the participating countries. These included:

- conceptual clarity of what urban development and management mean in the context of national development;
- political commitment at the highest level to a national urbanization policy;
- coordination in both policy formulation and programme implementation;
- clarity of roles and institutional relationships among sectoral agencies and between levels of government;
- decentralization of appropriate functions to local authorities e.g., central government as facilitator and local government as implementor;
- broad-based participation of the key participants in urban development and management processes, including the private formal and informal sectors;
- individual and institutional capacities in urban management, particularly in formulating appropriate policies, plans and programmes, as well as in implementation and operations.

■ Priority issues identified

In the concluding session, the discussion involved the identification by the participants of the **priority issues** in their respective countries which they felt needed to be focused on. This generated the following:

Bangladesh

financial management *vis-à-vis* central/local government relationships; municipal services delivery systems; infrastructure planning and management in secondary cities

China

land reform and housing; land markets and land use; municipal finance and revenue management; urban infrastructure and public transportation

India

municipal infrastructure planning and provision in the context of central/local relationships; urban transport; institutional relationships and coordination

Indonesia

human development; participatory approach to urban management; information exchange to generate people's participation; translating national urbanization policy into implementation at local levels

Malaysia

need for a national urbanization policy; urbanization of rural centres; human development and poverty alleviation; institutional strengthening and training in urban management

Nepal

community participation; participatory approaches to urban management; translating national urban policy to implementation strategies at the local level

Rio Summit gives a jump to UMP

By Robert Menezes

As Rio's call for sustainable development seems, at times, to be echoing in the past, some organizations in the UN family have already taken initiatives to implement that ideal into their plans of the present and near future. One such example is the inter-organizational Urban Management Programme (UMP), a ten-year, two-phase programme aimed at addressing the problems of the economically important urban areas in the developing world. The programme, whose sponsors include the UNDP, UNCHS (Habitat), and the World Bank, recognizes that by addressing the issues of poverty alleviation and human development in urban zones, they are not only benefitting the individuals in the communities they affect but also working toward the goal of sustainable development.

Although the UMP pre-dates Rio - Phase 1, which was the five-year strategy-building stage, began in 1986 - according to Ganti Rao, Director of Habitat's New York office, the UMP has managed to capitalize on the resolve and momentum of UNCED to initiate the second, more challenging, phase of the programme with renewed vigor. "The Rio conference definitely had a major, major impact on the UMP. It was what you could call an accelerating catalyst."

The UMP began its second, $19.7 million phase this month with its focus directed at "capacity building at both the country and regional levels and facilitating national and municipal dialogue on policy and programme options based upon a participatory structure," says Rao.

Dialogue, according to Rao, is a major facet of this programme, whose mission includes providing technical cooperation among developing countries and facilitating an international transfer of methodologies, tools, and knowledge. Also in the plans is a system of regional panels, committees of expertise "anchored in developing countries' institutions to cover UMP subject areas" in each of the designated country regions - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Europe, Middle East, and Northern Africa (EMENA). In Rao's words, these regional workshops will focus on "sharing of information about similar issues in different nations. That way, people from Calcutta can go to Singapore to discuss urban issues."

And no nation in forced to participate. As a recent Habitat publication says, "The programme recognizes that policy and institutional development are politically sensitive matters and that success in assisting in these areas can only result from countries' commitment to address the critical issues."

In addition, according to the same publication, "Improving the Living Environment for a Sustainable Future," the UMP is specifically tailored to the social and cultural particularities of each nation it advises.

Rao says that although Phase 1 focused on the review of basic theoretical constructs, the development of tools appropriate for implementation of improved urban management, and preparation of papers, Phase 2 will be more substantive, addressing its target issues of urban land management, municipal finance and administration, infrastructure, and poverty alleviation in a hands-on capacity. Phase 1, he says, revealed that many of these issues were inter-related and Phase 2 will give special attention to such cross-cutting themes.

There have been several victories to date, Rao claims, from increasing the roles of NGOs in Phase 1 from Uganda to Latin America. He anticipates UMP's successes in the future will be manifold, including an increase in several developing nations' capacities to analyze problems and the development of appropriate remedial policies. Another important achievement he says will be attaining a level of sustainability in managing the urban environment.

Rao is hopeful that the UMP will prove to be one of the most successful UN programmes and currently, everything seems to be proceeding according to plan, thanks to UNCED. "After Rio," he says, "things are moving fast."

Source: Earth Summit Times of 21 July 1992

Philippines

relationship between macro-economic policies and urban development; capacity-building in urban management at the municipal level

Sri Lanka

land management (land information systems); infrastructure planning and management; municipal revenue management; poverty alleviation at the local government level

Thailand

need for an explicit urban agenda; need to generate wider awareness and appreciation of urban issues; participatory approaches to urban management; translating national urban development policy into action

Viet Nam

need for appropriate policies for urban development; institutional development and coordination mechanisms; housing for the urban poor; revenue generation and financial management; urban infrastructure.

Recommendations

The meeting closed with discussions of the next steps needed to be undertaken by UMP in response to the issues raised by the participants. The major recommendations included:

- The immediate initiation of individual country consultations to define the framework for national action programmes;
- The holding of the organizational workshop for the prospective members of the UMP Regional Panel of Experts and mobilizing these experts to assist in organizing the country consultations; and
- The holding of a senior-level workshop on translating national urbanization policy into implementation at the municipal level. The Indonesian participants indicated that they would propose to their Government the hosting of this workshop.

Framework evolved

From the meeting's deliberations, a conceptual framework for UMP in Asia and the Pacific was evolved, setting out the substantive elements of the regional programme. This framework consists of **four interrelated themes**.

1. The issue of a **Policy Dimension to Urban Management** (cutting across all UMP components):

- Plan vs. market: how much of each?
- Conceptual development
- Politics and participation
- Central/local relationships
- How to develop support for policy change?

2. The issue of **Institutional Frameworks and Good Practices of Urban Management** (Land, Infrastructure, Urban Environment):

- Management structures
- Coordination mechanisms and principles
- Roles of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector
- Legal framework
- Organization and management in the public service

3. The issue of **Financial Resources** (Municipal Finance and Administration):

- Financial and fiscal policies
- Taxes, fees and user charges
- Central/local fiscal relations
- Privatization

4. The issue of **Human Development** (all components but especially Urban Poverty):

- Quality of Life
- Creation of a citizenry
- Cooperation with NGOs and the private sector
- Capacity-building
- Job creation
- Training and re-training.

(Ed. note: This is the regular feature article on UMP; see also the article on the country consultation in the United Republic of Tanzania under the UNCHS (Habitat) activities section, and "Nigerian mission" under the research and development section.)

Rehabilitation of the Sihom Area, Vientiane (Lao PDR)

The institutional strengthening of shelter-related sectors in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the rehabilitation of the Sihom area of Vientiane are proceeding hand-in-hand, with two closely related projects. The main objective is to strengthen the capacity of all the institutions involved in urban development so they will be in a position to carry out similar projects in the future in the Vientiane area and throughout the country. The rehabilitation site was selected because it was one of the most difficult in Vientiane, given its acute drainage problems and high population density.

Projects UNDP/UNCHS LAO/89/002 and UNCDF LAO/89/CO1 are jointly funded by UNDP/UNCHS and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), technical assistance being provided by UNCHS for the rehabilitation of the Sihom area of Vientiane and funding of all infrastructure work by UNCDF. UNCHS's technical assistance also includes installing capacity to produce base maps from small format area photography (SFAP) and technical assistance in the urban planning of secondary cities in Laos.

The physical aspect of the project is the realignment of the Nam Passak canal with the construction of a reinforced concrete canal and culvert crossings under eight roads which will intersect the canal. Landfilling of the old meanders will provide reclaimed land for housing families affected by the operation. Then the area will be restructured by upgrading the existing road network and living conditions with the introduction of a

Note the stagnant, scum-covered water in the Nam Passak canal and the lack of flow through the culverts. This creates an unhealthy environment, allowing mosquitoes to breed easily.

Many small houses will have to be removed, and the residents re-located, when rehabilitation of the Nam Passak canal commences.
Photo credits: Stephen Kirby for Maunsell - Sinclair Knight Joint Venture, Report to UNCHS (Habitat) on the consultancy mission for the Rehabilitation of the Sihom area.

water supply, electricity and sanitation. The emphasis is on the participation of the people in the project through the municipality. A socio-economic survey, base cadastral plan and a local area plan will be carried out with community participation.

A new Office of Urban Affairs has therefore been created with three cells -- Housing and Planning, Urban Data Bank, and Community Development. The Office of Urban Affairs is responsible for the Housing Programme dealing with requests for plots, and the Housing Credit Scheme to rebuild houses and organize compensation for land loss in either cash or land. $US 60,000 has been allocated from the Capital Development Fund to start the Housing Credit Scheme and $US 30,000 to assist the municipality and the population to identify with their priorities, such as a primary school or health facility.

The strengthening of local authorities will be achieved by strengthening municipal finance through taxation, land aspects, and utilities -- enabling the Government to recover the cost of the operation, strengthening institutions by involving the national polytechnics at the engineering design stage, strengthening the Office of Urban Affairs with a full-time urban management expert from UNCHS (Habitat), a full-time municipal finance expert and three United Nations Volunteers (a community development specialist, civil engineer, and socio-economist).

On completion of the rehabilitation process, it is expected that national professionals will be able to continue with similar work elsewhere. National Polytechnic professors will give in-service training to students to further enhance project-related training.

The duration of the project is 42 months. The project document was signed in August 1991, and field work started in September 1991 with the installation of the institutional framework -- work content, job descriptions, hiring of personnel. In May 1992 the first draft of the local area plan had been completed and a consulting firm to undertake the engineering studies selected. The socio-economic survey and cadastral plan have also been completed. Defining the housing and resettlement programme will continue from June 1992 to October 1993, and the reconstruction work itself will start after the end of the two rainy seasons in 1993.

Successful completion of first sites-and-services project in Guinea

Within a period of three years (1989-1991) the first sites-and-services project has been successfully completed in Conakry, the capital of Guinea. This pilot project was funded by the Government of Guinea (28 per cent), UNCDF (56 per cent) and UNDP (16 per cent), and executed by UNCHS (Habitat) in close collaboration with SOLOPRIMO, the National Public Developer.

Its total budget amounted to $US 6.4 million -- out of which 4.4 million were devoted to basic infrastructure (3.2 million) and community facilities (1.2 million). A total of 1436 households, approximately 13,000 people, benefited.

The plots were sold at two different rates: market prices for the largest plots (558 plots of from 300 to 600m2 sold at $US 8/m2). The average price of a "social" plot was therefore $US 40, representing approximately five to eight times the monthly income of the target population. This cross-subsidy approach has proven to be effective and will be further developed in future schemes.

One year after completion of works on the first site (Enta), over 90 per cent of the plots have been entirely paid for by the beneficiaries, while house construction has started on more than 70 per cent of the plots.

Land development on the two sites of Enta and Koloma included roads and drainage, water and electricity supply, schools,

Self-help construction

The school block

kindergarten, dispensaries and market platforms. A second phase has been launched with the funds collected from the sale of the first 1436 plots, corresponding to the cost recovery of on-site infrastructure (roads and drainage). Approximately 1000 new plots will be provided in this second phase.

One of the major achievements of the project has been institutional reinforcement and in-service training of the staff of SOLOPRIMO, on the occasion of its very first operation. SOLOPRIMO is now supposed to become an autonomous parastatal agency, which will replicate this first experience elsewhere in Conakry, where the demand for serviced plots is very high, and in provincial cities as well. New technical assistance projects are being designed for supporting SOLOPRIMO consolidation and expansion.

UNCHS (HABITAT) IN THE ARAB STATES

■ Algeria

The ongoing project ALG/88/018 - Preparatory Study for the Construction of the National Centre for Building Studies and Research (CNERIB) laboratory underwent a tripartite review on 25 February 1992, at which representatives of UNDP, UNCHS (Habitat) and the Government of Algeria decided to extend the project until April 1993. That should allow for more fellowships and training of the national staff abroad.

The project document for project ALG/92/003 - Reduction of Seismic Risk, was signed on 30 March 1992. The total budget for the 18-month project is $US 300,000 equally shared between the Government and UNDP. UNCHS (Habitat) is the executing agency, while the implementing agency is the National Centre for Applied Research in Paraseismic Engineering (CGS). The project is designed to strengthen the technical capacity of CGS with regard to the prediction and mitigation of seismic risks. The project started actively by providing fellowships. Six senior national officials represented CGS at the Tenth World Congress on Earthquake Engineering on 19 to 25 July 1992 in Madrid.

■ Djibouti

More than half of the urban population of the Republic of Djibouti live in its capital, the city of Djibouti, which is also the country's fastest-growing city. In 1988 the Government decided to formulate a new housing policy to meet the needs of the low-income majority of the capital -- beginning with a feasibility study aimed at the settlement of low-income groups in Balbala on the outskirts of the city.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, the Government of Djibouti, UNDP, UNCDF and UNCHS (Habitat) have since September 1991 been implementing a project to:

- Improve access to low-cost housing;
- Strengthen the national institutions responsible for housing and urban development in order to provide a permanent framework for the implementation of similar projects;
- Promote the development of small-scale enterprises in the housing-construction sector.

These objectives will result in the development of a 37 ha settlement area and of its basic infrastructure (roads, drainage, water and electricity), the provision of dry pit latrines, of loans for some 770 households, the introduction of a self-help approach in housing construction, the provision of tools and equipment loans for approximately 15 small-scale enterprises and the training of related national personnel.

The most innovative elements of this project are the **financing mechanisms** for small-scale entrepreneurs and low-income house builders which, in the latter case, rely on the creation of jointly responsible neighbourhood associations, and the delivery of **collective building permits**, these elements being the key conditions for obtaining loan facilities.

Under the overall leadership of the District of Djibouti, this project (DJI/86/C04) combines inputs of various Ministries, the "Société Immobilière de Djibouti" (Real Estate Corporation) and other government bodies. It is therefore from the institutional point of view an important step in the introduction of the Government's new housing policy. The duration of the $US 5.5 million project, which is funded by UNDP, UNCDF and the Government of Djibouti, is four years.

■ Egypt

The first project in the Arab world under the Sustainable Cities Programme will be implemented in Egypt. Project EGY/91/030 -Sustainable Growth and Development in Ismailia, aims at supporting environmentally-sustainable development in the Governorate of Ismailia by:

- Strengthening participatory planning capacity;
- Preparing a long-term strategic development plan;
- Formulating public investment project proposals to mobilize national and transnational funding; and
- Providing training and strengthening the national capacity, both at the official and private-sector levels.

The project document was signed on 9 June 1992 by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Gouely, the Governor of Ismailia, and Mr. Pedro Mercader, the UNDP Resident Representative on behalf of UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat). The project, which has a budget of $US 700,000, is to last two years. The signing ceremony was shown on national television. The national executing agency is the Governorate of Ismailia. UNCHS (Habitat) will be the cooperating agency and will provide the technical assistance required.

■ Jordan

In order to strengthen the Training Centre for Arab States in Amman, a consultant was fielded from 6 to 16 April 1992. Together with his Jordanian counterparts he designed three training workshops for human-settlements policy-makers. The first, on the theme "Human Settlements Policies, Strategies and Procedures", is to be conducted from 4 to 9 October 1992, in order to commemorate World HABITAT Day, and Arab Habitat Day.

The other two workshops will be conducted later -- on the themes "Housing for Low-Income Groups", and "Suburban Crisis: Strategies and Solutions", respectively.

Another mission was undertaken by a UNCHS senior staff member from 21 to 29 April 1992, to monitor the progress of the National Shelter Strategy (NSS). Jordan is the first Arab State to formulate its NSS. The mission submitted its recommendations, which were transmitted through UNDP to the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) for consideration.

The recommendations include the strengthening of the recently established HUDC; the development of a housing-information system and the selection of a set of shelter performance

indicators; and a pilot project for developing skills in community participation at both the local government and community levels.

Morocco

Ongoing project MOR/88/014 - Preparatory Phase of the National Land Use Plan (SNAT), is nearing completion. To ensure continuity, a project document for the second phase (MOR/91/006) has been prepared. Its budget is approximately $US 680,000 and duration is two years.

The first phase was designed to produce eight sectoral studies and identify selected scenarios. The second phase aims at using the outputs of the previous phase in order to design the National Land Use Plan. Training of nationals was provided in the first phase, and will continue during the second phase. Upon completion, the Government will have the tools and basis on which it can enact its national land-use policy.

Sudan

In an immediate response to the UNDP Resident Representative's request, UNCHS (Habitat) fielded two missions to Khartoum. The first, a fact-finding mission, was undertaken by a senior staff member during 20 to 27 March 1992, and generally assessed the situation of the pressing needs of the locally displaced, the urban poor and the squatters in and around Khartoum.

Based on the assessment, another one-month mission undertaken by an international consultant, was fielded in April/May 1992. The consultant submitted his report, which focused on upgrading and rehabilitation of existing settlements, and providing basic low- cost infrastructure to new urban areas.

The consultant also submitted a draft project document combining cooperation among the Ministry of Housing, UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat). The proposed project would provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Housing, along with capital assistance by potential donor countries/ agencies, for improved settlement planning and upgrading policies and procedures. The project will also provide basic urban services to the urban poor, and develop income-generating and income-support activities, through supporting women in development as well as the private sector and NGOs.

Among the first beneficiaries will be those households recently relocated from unauthorized settlements in Khartoum, followed by those living in unauthorized or unplanned residential areas and thus scheduled for relocation.

United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing is charged with the responsibility of providing adequate shelter to its nationals in the middle- and low-income groups. In this context, UNCHS (Habitat) provided technical advice in the area of housing finance in view of identifying the formulation of an apex National Housing Bank as the first step. Such an institution would be able to handle the initial seed capital layout of Dhs 2 billion by the Government during the first four years of operation. The perception is also that, with time, such an institution will be in a position to encourage private participation and a climate that will sustain and draw public offering.

It was recommended that initially such a financial undertaking should be located in the public sector, set up as a separate limited company -- sponsored and regulated by the Central Bank, and operationally monitored and supervised by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

The principal objectives of the proposed National Housing Bank will be the promotion of home ownership among the low- and middle-income groups, to develop the modalities of a sustainable revolving fund, and the mobilization of savings from the corporate sector, the salaried households and the informal sector -- all of which will be expected to feed into the revolving fund.

In addition, it was agreed that project UAE/85/012 - Institutional Support to Dubai Municipality, be extended to end-June 1993. New inputs include documentation, land surveying, and environment and safety components, in addition to the services of a town planning expert for one year, and a substantial increase in the training component.

Cuba: Pilot cement plant inaugurated

On 14 April 1992, a pilot cement plant was inaugurated at a ceremony attended by representatives of the Ministries of Construction and of Building Materials and of the Academy of Sciences. The event, which was given widespread press coverage, marks the last stage of project CUB/86/013, in which UNCHS (Habitat) has been helping the Ministry of Construction to develop the local construction sector.

Nicaragua: Poster by the NSS project

The poster on the back cover was developed by the project for the formulation of a National Shelter Strategy for Nicaragua for the annual FINNIDA Exhibition on Development Cooperation, held from 10 to 14 May 1992 at Helsinki, Finland. It is the work of Federico Mendoza, an architect working on the project.

The project in Nicaragua is one of the six country activities implemented under the UNCHS (Habitat)/Government of Finland Support Programme for Preparing National Shelter Strategies. The project is financed by the Government of Finland and UNDP.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Round Table on Training in Support of Urban Finance and Management for Arab States - Mashrek Subregion

A senior policy round table was held at Cairo, Egypt, from 26 to 30 April 1992. The meeting brought together, for the first time ever, representatives of Ministries of Local Government, municipal authorities and training institutions to discuss and analyse major issues affecting municipal finance and management. The purpose of the meeting was to examine opportunities and constraints for improving the day-to-day management of municipal functions and services and to identify training responses.

The meeting brought together 26 participants -- three of them Deputy Ministers -- from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen -- and four resource persons from the host country. It was sponsored by UNDP, UNCHS (Habitat), and EDI of the World Bank and hosted by the Sakkara Local Development Centre of the Ministry of Local Administration of Egypt.

Participants identified and classified in order of priority the key issues and problem areas in municipal finance and management. A key decision taken at the conclusion of the meeting was the designation of a training focal point in each country to liaise with each other and the sponsoring agencies for the exchange of data and information on training needs and resources in the region. Each focal point will be organizing national follow-up meetings in order to further refine and define the key issues identified together with other municipalities in their respective countries.

Synthesis reports will be circulated to all participating institutions for the preparation of a detailed agenda for a follow-up meeting between institutions in December 1992. The purpose of that meeting will be to examine ways and means of making best use of available training resources at the regional level.

Nigerian mission

A training advisor from UNCHS (Habitat) provided one week of input into a national workshop on municipal finance organized by CASSAD, Ibadan, Nigeria 11 to 15 May 1992. These inputs were provided as part of the ongoing Urban Management Programme support activities to local government training institutions in view of strengthening their capacities to mobilize and manage local resources.

Mr. Mustafa Sadik, Deputy Minister of Local Administration, Egypt (with tie-clip, front row) joined participants at the Round Table.

The purpose of the workshop was twofold: (a) to provide training inputs to the course, and (b) to train local trainers. Training materials were also provided to CASSAD for use in subsequent courses and workshops.

Field observations and studio solutions: Regional Workshop on "Housing in Development" in Bandung takes a practical approach

Training-in-the-field, study of daily housing realities as well as formulation of appropriate solutions and actions were the major methods used in a regional Workshop for 33 participants from 12 Asian countries. The Workshop, held from 21 April to 5 May this year at Bandung, Indonesia, as the first part of the 1992 United Nations Training Programme on "Housing in Development", was hosted for the second time by the Catholic University Parahyangan (UNPAR).

The Programme, held alternately in Asia and Africa since 1979 by UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with the Postgraduate Centre for Human Settlements (PGCHS) of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, is aimed at middle- to senior-level professionals (officials, practitioners, researchers and trainers) whether at governmental or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or at training and research institutes who are in charge of developing and implementing housing policies, programmes and actions.

The objective of the Programme is to stimulate critical appraisal in the field of housing in order to enhance the effectiveness of professionals in improving housing conditions in their respective countries. The organizers developed conceptual frameworks to grasp and explain the present-day dynamics of urban housing environments in developing countries.

Using introductory lectures on selective housing issues and the presentation of different country experiences, the Bandung Workshop looked at housing in both the general and specifically Asian context. After intensive site visits in Bandung and Jakarta, Workshop participants used studio work in small groups to identify issues and potentials of two particular and very problematic low-income settlements (*Kampungs*) and formulated appropriate solutions and actions for upgrading those sites. Although the respective projects were situated in a specific environment of Indonesia, they represented conditions which are highly relevant to other countries, for example: upgrading of deteriorating popular housing estates,

upgrading of dense informal dwelling environments, new housing developments, restructuring of obsolete inner-city areas and of urban peripheries, links between local housing actions and surrounding urban dynamics, potentials for land sharing, cross subsidy, etc. The findings and suggestions of Workshop participants on Kampung upgrading were evaluated and discussed by Indonesian and international professionals.

About 20 selected professionals who participated in the Bandung Workshop will have the opportunity for further development of their studio work and broader exchange of experiences during a follow-up training course in October/ November this year at PGCHS in Leuven, Belgium. During this course, concepts, methods and skills will be reviewed and tested in lectures, seminars, discussions, and through exercises and project work. Before traveling to Leuven, however, the participants are expected to do some "homework". One assignment is the preparation of relevant country information on housing problems and a case-study on upgrading in the context of their home countries. During the four-month intermediate period between workshop and training course, participants are also working on the individual elaboration of an action plan related to a current task in their own professional work on housing.

UNITED NATIONS TRAINING PROGRAMME "HOUSING IN DEVELOPMENT"
URBAN HOUSING WORKSHOP - ASIAN REGION
BANDUNG, APRIL 21 - MAY 5 1992 PUSDIKLAT DPU

Intensive site visits to Kampungs, housing cooperatives and governmental estates were part of the Workshop on Housing in Development held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 21 April to 5 May 1992.

The "Housing in Development" Training Programme will be continued in 1993 by an extended four-week workshop for the African region, which will take place in Nairobi assisted by the Housing Research and Development Unit (HRDU) of the University of Nairobi.

UNCHS (Habitat)/ Government of Hungary Training of Trainers Course on Local Government Management for Central and Eastern Europe

The Course, the first of its kind organized by any international or bilateral assistance agency, was held from 25 April to 15 May 1992 in Veszprem and Budapest, Hungary. It brought together 21 participants -- 10 from Hungary, 5 from Poland, 3 from Romania and 3 from Slovakia -- among them 10 women. (See next page).

The Course was jointly funded by UNCHS (Habitat) and by the Government of Hungary, with each of the participating entities covering all travel and subsistence costs of its participants. It was organized by the UNCHS Information Office in Budapest and by the Hungarian host institutions: Ministry of Interior and the Veszprem College of the School of Public Administration, and was directed by Mr. Fred Fisher, consultant, Director of the International Development Institution for Organization and Management (IDIOM) and by Mr. Tomasz Sudra, Chief of the Training Unit, UNCHS (Habitat).

Previously the two UNCHS training manuals used in the Programme (*Guide for Managing Change for Urban Managers and Trainers* and *Guide for Designing Effective Human Settlements*Training Programmes) had been translated for use by participants.

The principal objectives were to:

- Increase participants' knowledge and skills in client-centered, demand-driven, performance-based training as a strategy for individual and organization development;
- Increase their knowledge and skills in the processes of action research as an effective planning, management and implementation strategy for local self-governance;

Participants from Romania, Hungary and Poland during one of the plenary sessions.

Some of the sessions were held in the garden of the College.
Photo credit: Mr. Laszlo Lacko.

- Design several national training programmes, based on client demand and the concepts and strategies learned in the Course; and
- Plan a course of action for applying what has been learned to strengthen local governments in each of the participating countries.

As part of the Course activities, participants worked in four international syndicate-groups on local government problems common in the region, developing proposals for management improvement and training strategies, and designing specific training programmes. This stage of the Course ended with implementation by each group of a sample module of the designed programme in a simulated session involving the remaining course participants as trainees/clients. These presentations were evaluated in depth by all participants.

An important component of the Course was the preparation of individual and country-team action plans for follow-up activities. As a result, national "multiplier" training-of- trainers (TOT) courses and other follow-up activities are planned. Specific requests for various forms of support from UNCHS (Habitat) will be submitted later. In addition, several follow-up activities are planned within the countries by individual participants or by groups of participants.

The next regional TOT course, based on the model tested in the Veszprem-Budapest course, has been proposed by the Romanian delegation to be held in Romania in 1993 and to cover, besides Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and other interested countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and, possibly, the Baltic countries.

Waste recycling workshops planned

UNCHS (Habitat) is currently preparing for a series of city-based workshops on the promotion of waste recycling and re-use in developing countries. The workshops -- scheduled to take place in August 1992 at Bangkok, Jakarta, Kanpur, Karachi and Manila -- will be aimed at entrepreneurs, municipal authorities and other interested contributors. It is hoped that by promoting recycling and re-use of municipal solid waste, the costs of waste disposal will be reduced, the environment protected, and employment provided for the urban poor.

Second international seminar/workshop on cost-effective building materials and technologies transfer mechanisms and production

In December 1990, participants from 10 African countries took part in the first international seminar cum workshop, held at Madras, India. From 24 February to 6 March 1992, the second such event was held by UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) at its training centre in Madras. Six countries (Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Senegal) sent participants.

This two-week seminar was structured to cover a series of presentations on important topics related to the seminar theme. In 16 sessions, lectures were given by eminent professionals, both from the public and private sector. These presentations highlighted the impressive approach of the technology transfer mechanism promoted through the countrywide Indian network of building centres; the need for extensive use of locally-available building materials and skills plus the upgrading of traditional construction techniques and of artisanal skills in traditional and cost-effective building materials and technologies. Also stressed were the production of small, simple machines capable of being manufactured locally; the promotion of new building materials using agricultural wastes (rather

than scarce and costly building materials); the need to use mass media to propagate the use of cost-effective materials and technologies; and the provision of low-cost infrastructure such as water pour-flush latrines, small bore sewer systems and the conversion of city garbage into fuel pellets.

Field visits to various technology-transfer projects, building- material factories, and research and development institutions were also organized. These ranged from a pre-cast door and window-frame factory through the Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) to technology-transfer projects at Sattanur, Kollam and Alapuzha. Additional visits were organized with a view to familiarize the delegates/participants with the rich heritage of Indian history and architecture.

Participants came away determined to organize their own training courses in their own countries. The need for governmental incentives to encourage the production of cost-effective building materials, preferably through the private sector, and the promotion of small-scale building material industries using local resources and focused on low-cost technical infrastructure were among the overall proposals for follow-up, as was the establishment of building units similar to the building centres in India -- to be linked to housing programmes and construction agencies to market affordable building materials and components. Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Senegal indicated interest in transferring the technologies of pre-cast elements and construction techniques from the host country, while the use of ferrocement funicular shells in Africa was considered by participants from Ghana, Namibia and Senegal.

Source: Paul-Walter Bouda, Special UNCHS representative

Preparatory meeting for the First Global Consultation on the Construction Industry

The First Global Consultation on the Construction Industry, being jointly organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNCHS (Habitat), is scheduled to be held in Tunis, Tunisia, in May 1993. The Consultation will focus on the current constraints to improving the performance of the construction industry in developing countries (such as the chronic shortage of building materials, low labour productivity, lack of managerial and technical skills, and low capitalization of construction enterprises), and will search for new initiatives to strengthen the construction sector in developing countries.

An inter-agency meeting was held in Tunis from 24 to 27 February 1992 to begin preparatory work for the Global Consultation.

Women in human-settlements development

■ International Women's Day celebrated

An "in-house" celebration of International Women's Day was successfully held at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters on 30 March 1992. It consisted of an hour-long programme, lunch and an art exhibition. The celebration was very well attended and the participation of the staff, particularly the women, both in the preparation and in the event itself, was excellent. The programme consisted of:

1. Welcome, Ms. Jane Kiwia - the M.C.
2. Words of Mr. Kuyama, on behalf of Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director
3. Short history of International Women's Day, Ms. Zahra Hassan
4. Presentation by Ms. Catalina Hinchey Trujillo
5. Time analysis (of a man's and woman's typical day), Ms. Jane Kiwia
6. Hatha yoga demonstration, Ms. Hilary Airey
7. Poem and essay, Ms. Debbie Ruthinda
8. "Faith, hope and charity" (on charitable work in Nairobi), Ms. Florrie Bresson
9. Setting up a crèche, Assunta Gleria (see box below)
10. Women in Namibia, Ms. Hannah Ng'ang'a
11. Bharat nat yam (Indian dance), Ms. Deepa Visavadia
12. Finale: Ugandan dance group.

The announcement of work towards a crèche or nursery at the United Nations Office, Nairobi was made.

"The existence of a sale site, close to the working place, where one can leave one's babies and little children, while we mothers are in our offices would release the pressure on us. This is a minimum *practical* request which is directly linked to the *strategic* needs of women to be present and visibly active in society without renouncing our desire to also have a family. Such kinds of services facilitate our participation in the creation of a better, more humane and just society for ourselves and our families."

The initiative to have a nursery school on the premises was started last year under the umbrella of the Staff Association, but support from all the staff, from UNCHS (Habitat) as a United Nations agency, from the Common Services, and from all the other agencies in Gigiri is needed. (Ed. note: Since then, a revised questionnaire has been sent to all staff on the compound.) The establishment of such a facility would be one way to facilitate female employment within the Organization, as suggested by the New York Headquarters circular.

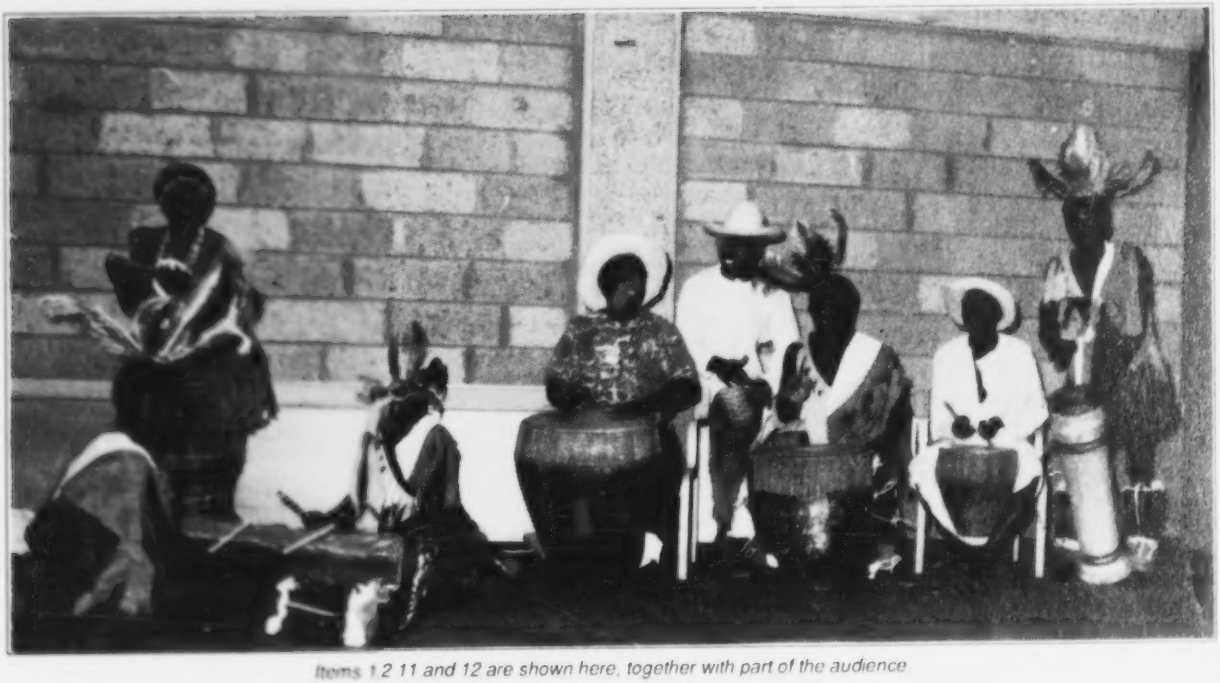
In her presentation entitled "Women, Environment and Development: Symbiosis for Survival", Ms. Catalina Hinchey Trujillo, the Coordinator of the Women and Human Settlements Development Programme, began her presentation with the following words:

"Today, we are here to celebrate in our own way what is being celebrated around the world in one way or another. That women count and that it is time we stood up and were counted visibly. Gone are the times when women were 'barefoot, pregnant and in the kitchen'.. although we still believe in bearing children and we still believe in making sure our families have food on the table every day and in a loving and beautiful atmosphere, where harmony, equality within our differences, peace, solidarity and true love are still cherished as our most prized gifts to one another."

She concluded with the following pertinent questions in order to plan for the true improvement of the living conditions of women and men:

How can we measure women's real participation within the human settlements sector?

Is it enough for women to continue to do the invisible work of carrying the water, mixing the cement, caring for the children, fixing the meals, gathering the fuel, urging their men to go to the community meetings, multiplying their own daily tasks so as to be present themselves in community work and community organization?



Items 1 2 11 and 12 are shown here, together with part of the audience

Who really makes the decisions that directly affect women's lives?

Who benefits from those decisions?

Who pays? In what way?

Which are the rights exercised and the obligations realized?

What is the result as far as privilege, power, equality, are concerned?

With our projects and programmes are we truly helping to further the social, economic and political participation of women or are we simply burdening them with more work?

Which are the benefits for them?

Are we not often exposing women to greater dangers? ... Family conflicts, marital violence, ...social, political violence, ...even death?

Is it enough to number statistically how many women [there are in various positions of authority]?

Where is women's leisure time?

Global Assembly of Women and the Environment/World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet

In the previous issue of this newsletter (pp. 32 and 33), we carried a photostory on the efforts of a UNCHS (Habitat) staff member, presented to the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment, and told of her staying on for the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet. We now have further details of those important events leading up to UNCED, and of formal UNCHS (Habitat) participation.

■ Global Assembly, Women and the Environment

The Global Assembly of Women and the Environment, convened under the sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Senior Women's Advisory Group (SWAG), took place from 4 to 8 November 1991 at Miami, Florida, the United States of America. Some 520 invited participants attended the meeting, which was sponsored by seven United Nations agencies, including UNCHS (Habitat), 18 private corporations and 10 Governments.

The Global Assembly wished to demonstrate women's capacities in environmental management as they relate to global ecological issues, establishing a new benchmark for working together to advance environmental management which is affordable, sustainable, visible, and replicable. Two hundred and eighteen success stories from all regions were used to demonstrate how environmental degradation has been avoided or mitigated by women's leadership and environmental management, and to establish the basis for the development of five regional action plans for environmental management efforts. UNCHS sent two success stories, one from Bolivia and the other from Kenya. In addition, Ms. Irene Vance, Chief Technical Adviser for UNCHS (Habitat) at La Paz, Bolivia, served as a rapporteur for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ms. A.P. Celik of the New York Office of UNCHS (Habitat), who is also a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Environment and Development -- the advisory committee for the meeting -- was a rapporteur for the European Region. Action plans were prepared by each regional group and by groups of mentors such as government organizations, international organizations, academia, private sector/corporations, foundations, NGOs and media, and new-generation leaders.

■ World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet

The World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, held from 8 to 12 November 1991 at Miami, was organized by Ms. Bella Abzug and the Women's International Policy Action Committee to provide an opportunity for women to have an equal say in policies that will affect the health of the planet well into the next century, policies that will provide long-term security both for the planet and its people. Tribunals and workshops, panels and discussions were all part of the Congress. UNCHS (Habitat) was represented in the panel on "Women and the 'Man-made' Built Environment".

A draft of a Women's Action Agenda 21 was prepared. It recommended that no more than 60 per cent and no less than 40 per cent of either sex be included in Government bodies and all public policy-making groups such as the delegations, permanent missions to United Nations bodies, United Nations Secretariat professional staff, United Nations agencies, and so on. It also highly recommended the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 by strengthening the involvement of women in the human-settlements delivery process.

Shelter, Women and Development Conference/Exhibit

"Shelter, Women and Development: First and Third World Perspective" was the theme of an international conference and exhibit held at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor on 7 to 9 May 1992, with UNCHS/UNIFEM sponsorship. It had been organized by Prof. H. Dandekar to establish the linkage of shelter issues with gender and development, specifically development strategies for women through shelter provision.

Presentations ranged from the SPARC Shelter Training Programme in India, which assumes that the struggle for shelter is the first phase of social change, through CEFEMINA in Costa Rica, with land registration in women's names so that they might design and build their own housing. Prof. Irene Tinker of the University of California said that UNCHS (Habitat) put women and shelter on the agenda of Governments and NGOs, noting that it was now up to Governments to take up the subject and act on it, and to women to be more involved in politics and government. Ms. A.P. Celik of the UNCHS New York Office spoke of women's participation in the construction sector, giving success stories from UNCHS projects, and offering further details of the work of UNCHS during the discussion period. UNCHS publications on women and shelter were exhibited, as were its videos.

Workshop on monitoring and evaluation of the Community Development Programme

The increasing focus of the UNCHS (Habitat) work programme on supporting

sustainable development in human settlements makes it opportune to take a new look at appropriate methods of monitoring and evaluation. There is a need to systematically monitor and evaluate the activities and results of projects in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Zambia, which are part of the UNCHS/Danida Community Development Programme. All projects have as their main objective the improvement of housing and living conditions of urban low-income areas through community participation and support to community-based organizations.

On 4 June 1992, UNCHS (Habitat) held a workshop in Nairobi to consult with representatives of NGOs and aid agencies on the structure and scope of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Programme. The discussions focused on:

- A structure and mechanism for monitoring and evaluating activities in the different country projects;
- A methodology for evaluating the global support programme;
- A methodology for measuring progress and achievements through the application of suitable social development indicators in community-based shelter projects, including indicators for organizational and technical capacities of low-income communities in enabling shelter strategies, as well as indicators for socially sustainable urban development.

The workshop participants emphasized that the search for an adequate monitoring and evaluation system must include community-based monitoring and evaluation which would provide local communities and NGOs with a tool to monitor their own development activities, and thereby evaluate their impact on the improvement of local living conditions.

SHELTER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This article will outline recent and ongoing work in three major areas: financial resources, land management and shelter production and delivery. They are all geared toward formulating policies and support strategies for the promotion of shelter and community services, as part of the social and economic development process.

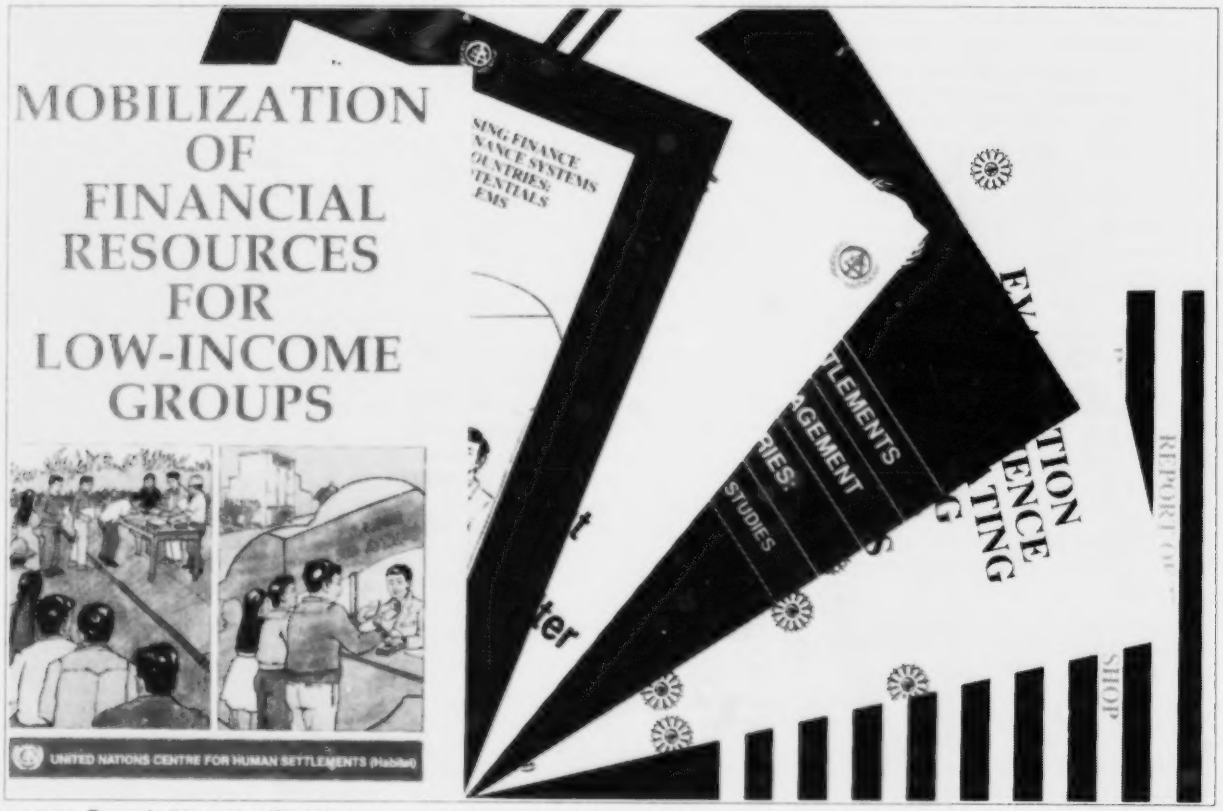
Work concerned with ***financial resources*** aims to promote the **mobilization of financial resources for human settlements development** and to establish and strengthen housing finance systems and institutions, assure a sustainable flow of credit to housing and housing infrastructure and services, giving special attention to the needs of low-income groups and women. UNCHS (Habitat) seeks to monitor and evaluate developments in the housing finance system, particularly their responsiveness to the needs of low-income groups, in the light of the provisions and recommendations of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS).

Work during the **1990-1991 biennium** centred on reviewing and evaluating how various countries finance human settlements development and associated services, a subsequent report on how the GSS could be financed and a major report evaluating the potentials and problems of integrating housing finance into the national finance systems of developing countries, followed up with an Inter-regional Workshop (Africa and Asia) on the topic held in Goa, India, in June 1991. The objective was to explore mechanisms to strengthen housing finance systems. The research reports emanating from these are being distributed to housing finance institutions, relevant Government ministries and agencies as well as relevant educational institutions in developing countries, followed up, where appropriate, with advisory missions to relevant agencies in Member States.

In the **current biennium**, work is continuing on evaluation of national housing-finance systems, with emphasis on analyzing the performance of existing institutions, evaluating the major mortgage instruments in use by those institutions and identifying and promoting innovative housing-finance arrangements -- all with a focus on their ability to respond to increasing demands for housing credit. Work also continues on research into income-generating and informal activities in housing projects and programmes within low-income communities, particularly in the building-materials sector, and on financial administration at the local government level. The Programme is focusing particular attention on community-based finance institutions, promoting local financial services and mechanisms to tap the savings potential of low-income groups.

Land management research aims to explore, develop and promote land policies, land management systems and a range of mechanisms and instruments that could bring about and facilitate a ***steady, adequate and affordable supply or release of serviced land to meet most human settlements requirements,*** with particular attention to the needs of the disadvantaged groups, including women, and generally assisting Member States in efficiently managing their land resources for settlements development purposes.

In **1991**, work in this area involved monitoring and assessment of land policies and strategies, and the impacts of land-related activities on human settlements development; the analysis of procedures, regulations and instruments for the progressive modernization of land tenure systems; and the formulation and implementation of land policies. Work continues on reviewing and updating the technical and administrative requirements for improving the operation of land-registration



systems. Towards this goal, a Workshop on Land Registration and Land Information Systems was organized at Nairobi, Kenya, for some of the countries of the Eastern and Southern African region. That Workshop resulted in a technical publication, *Guidelines for the Improvement of Land Registration and Land-Information Systems in Developing Countries*; this publication is being widely disseminated to relevant agencies and institutions and is being followed-up with advisory services where requests are received.

Current activities focus on the development of land-information systems as a basic prerequisite to formulating and implementing effective land policies and strategies and on the evaluation of national land policies and their implementation instruments. One of the ongoing research activities involves documentation of the experiences in New South Wales, Australia, that has successfully initiated and developed a land-title registration system, so that developing countries, many of which are still largely at the initial stages of developing such systems, could profitably apply the lessons learnt. A related activity involves research on innovative approaches to improving such systems -- the informal initiatives and practical expedients used in various developing countries to effect identification and registration of titles to land, (sometimes referred to as "half-way cadastre") to see how they could be modified to make them officially acceptable and adoptable. Another is the evaluation of selected national land policies and instruments with a view to assessing how they improve the supply of and access to land for human settlements development and identifying transferable experiences for dissemination and sharing among countries.

In carrying out these activities, UNCHS is liaising and collaborating with relevant national institutions and agencies on the subject, as well as with relevant international bodies such as the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

■ *Housing production*

UNCHS (Habitat) is also addressing the processes and mechanisms for producing and **delivering housing on a scale and at a cost which meets the needs of most people in the developing world.** This includes the special issues related to squatter housing and upgrading, inner-city housing, women's housing and housing for the indigent and the handicapped.

The **Medium Term Plan 1992-1997** points out that the "world-wide problem of inadequate housing ... defies the capacity of most Governments to deal with it by conventional means." Efforts of Governments need to be supported and augmented by those of the private sector, NGOs and local communities, in the provision of acceptable housing at affordable cost, in pursuit of the general goal of adequate shelter for all by the year 2000.

It emphasizes that special attention will be given to research on housing production for the poorest groups, including women, without sufficient income to offer effective demand for the formal housing market; elements of the strategy include review and evaluation of housing-production systems, with a view to identifying support measures for enhanced production. Attention is to be given to the problem of delivering housing at affordable cost and to the capacity of the formal and informal housing markets to meet the needs of low-income groups.

Activities in the previous and current biennia fit into that context.

During the **previous biennium** three such activities were implemented. The first involved the assessment of experience with the **project approach** to shelter delivery for the poor. It concluded that while projects as such have a definite role in stimulating and promoting housing production processes, they need to be integrated with large-scale programme and policy-level directives. (The study was based on case studies in Colombia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zimbabwe). A second study, (based on case studies in Colombia, India, Nigeria and Thailand) evaluated experiences with initiating **enabling shelter strategies**. The resultant report (HS/238/91/E) noted the potentials and problems of the enabling shelter strategies in addressing the needs of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups and stressed the need for continued "responsibility of the State to intervene more forcefully on behalf of those who cannot benefit even from enabling strategies because of their lack of skills and resources". The third research activity in this area was a review and evaluation of the problems of **inner-city poor** in general, and of **relocation** experiences in particular (with case studies from Mexico and Nigeria), discussed at a meeting held at Rotterdam from 12 to 5 February 1992.

The activities underway in the **present biennium** continue the work undertaken in the previous biennium. Research projects recently started deal with:

- National Trends in Housing-Production Practices -- which seeks to survey the actual housing production and delivery processes that are taking place as a result of the reorganization of the shelter sector as outlined in the GSS, as well as survey the capacity of the various actors to deliver housing at affordable costs for all groups;
- The Contribution of Public/Private Partnerships in Housing Delivery, which is a direct follow-up on one of the conclusions of the previous study on initiating enabling shelter strategies, to be based on three case studies, one from a developed country and two from developing countries;
- National Experiences with Shelter Delivery for the Poorest Groups, again a direct follow-up on the findings of a previous study, but one which will thus go beyond the enabling strategy to delineate Governments' role as providers, to take care of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable sections that cannot secure affordable shelter in the present system and need direct Government help, in the form of land, housing inputs and employment opportunities;
- Improving Living Conditions of the Elderly and the Disabled in Human Settlements, which will form the basis for the formulation of guidelines in addressing the needs of these specific groups in the context of human settlements planning, management and development, and which serve as a contribution of UNCHS (Habitat) to the United Nations Decade for the Elderly and the Disabled;
- Development of measures to promote rental housing systems both formal and informal in line with the GSS;
- A research activity on the theme "The Relationship Between Underemployment, Unemployment and Shelter Provision" (see following article);

The Community Development Programme also falls under this area; the previous issue of UNCHS (HABITAT) NEWS offered an overview.

The relationship between underemployment, unemployment, and shelter provision: Research project underway

Although the relationship between income generation and human settlement development is increasingly gaining recognition, only limited efforts have been directed to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the economic, social and physical processes at work. The Commission on Human Settlements in resolution 13/10 of its thirteenth session thus requested the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to prepare a report on "the relationship between underemployment and unemployment and shelter provision, including integrated employment-linked shelter-delivery options".

Within the framework of increased support for enabling shelter strategies, this research project is now underway. It will consolidate existing knowledge and analyze the potential for new forms of public/private partnerships in income-generating activities within the context of settlement improvement programmes. The study will reassess the potential of the various activities of the housing production process within a policy framework, stressing the potential of **labour-intensive** as opposed to capital-intensive solutions. Further to this, it will emphasize the potential for use of **community contracts** and sub-contracting. It will assess the processes of housing, infrastructure and services provision under the aspect of employment generation in order to identify which activities can be performed by individuals and groups within the communities themselves and which should be left for the private or public sector. The intended focus will be on how to enable the poor in general, and the most disadvantaged groups in particular, to **participate directly in the housing production process**, thereby not only producing and improving their present settlement conditions, but also increasing the potential for future housing production, as well as infrastructure and services delivery.

In its discussion of human settlements development and employment generation, four different aspects of investments in housing, infrastructure and services provision will be considered:

- The direct impact of the investment itself;
- Backward linkages to other sectors of the economy;
- Forward linkages, including discussions of the potential of mixed-use in housing areas and of how construction can influence future income generation through various home-based activities such as renting out parts of the house;
- Impacts of the above three aspects at the macro level.

These are but some of the topics to be covered. A summary of the paper itself will appear in a later issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

INFORMATION INITIATIVES

"At the close of the 20th century, information constitutes 'a power more precious than petrol and more precious than gold...'" (the Ambassador of the United States of America to OECD, 1983, as cited by Denis von der Weid with the collaboration of Juan Ruffino, in Development, Democracy and Outer Space (NGLS, May 1992, UNCTAD/ NGLS/33)

CICSENE competition: furnishing a low-cost habitat

A competition open to architectural and engineering students worldwide is being organized jointly by the Italian Centre for Building Development in Emerging Nations (CICSENE) and by the School of Specialization in "Technology, architecture and cities in developing countries" of the Polytechnic of Turin, Italy. The competition is on "furnishing of a low-cost habitat". Entrants should submit a project on a table 90 by 90 cms which may consist of a preliminary project, sketch, report transcribed directly on the design table, etc. Languages of presentation may be English, French, Italian or Spanish.

Each participant must present a certificate of enrollment from his or her university faculty for 1991-92; in the case of group projects, one member must be designated group leader, and all members must present a certificate of enrollment. Prizes will consist of an offer to participate in two workshops to be held at international universities for an overall value of $US 2000 each, inclusive of travel expenses (or a corresponding sum in case the workshops are not feasible), and 20 reimbursements for expenses of $US 200 each.

A special commission will judge the entries, which must be submitted by 5 March 1993 to: CICSENE, Concors "L'arredo di un habitat a basso costo", Via Borgosesia 30 - 10145, Torino, Italy. Tel.(011) 7412435; Fax. (011) 745261.

Can you help? Oxford Poly building for safety project

The Disaster Management Centre, Oxford Polytechnic, is undertaking an Overseas Development Administration-funded project, in collaboration with Cambridge Architectural Research Ltd., entitled "Guidelines for Developing Building Improvement Programmes in Hazard Prone Areas". As part of the project, they are compiling an annotated source compendium which will contain an annotated bibliography and details about organizations with expertise in this field. The compendium will be widely distributed to Governments and NGOs in developing countries and to research institutions, and will create a network for sharing information, expertise and facilities.

We need more information on organizations in developing countries with a regional focus, which have expertise in the following:

1. Improving the safety of small, non-engineered buildings against natural disasters.

2. Training small builders.

3. Designing and testing improved building techniques and materials.

If you work for such an organization, or know of one with relevant expertise, and would like to be included in the compendium, please **send details by 30 November 1992** to: Dr. Yasemin Aysan, The Director, Disaster Management Centre, Oxford Polytechnic, Gipsy Lane, Oxford OX3, 0BP, UK.

New from Habitat

Books

■ **Development of National Technological Capacity for Production of Indigenous Building Materials**, iv plus 83 pp., tables, notes, boxes, HS/247/91E; ISBN 92-1-131170-5

This report analyses the causes of current technological shortcomings of the building-materials industry and outlines the framework of a possible strategy for endogenous capacity-building in the building-materials sector. It states that technological capacity-building is an incremental process to be pursued over a period of time, with vigour and determination.

Chapter I discusses the many ways a developing country benefits from technological upgrading of the building-materials industry - - in economic, financial, social and environmental terms. Chapter II analyses the problems faced by developing countries in their efforts at domestic capacity-building, and the key underlying issues, and outlines the possible "routes" of technology acquisition through indigenous development and technology transfer. The focus is on the small-scale sector.

Chapter III identifies the principal actors who must work together to enhance the technological capacity of the building-materials industry: entrepreneurs in both the private and public sectors, national institutions, and international agents for technology transfer. Considerations that affect their performance are then discussed, with reference to new and innovative approaches, and to appropriate technology development agencies.

Finally, the elements of an operational strategy for technological capacity-building of the building-materials industry are outlined in chapter IV. Even though an effective strategy will have to be country-specific, the common grounds for national and international action are discussed with specific reference to the possibilities of South-South and North-South cooperation. The annex contains selected case studies of technology transfer and diffusion, examining and analysing the degree of success of different mechanisms over a period of time.

■ **Effects of Energy-conservation Policies in the Member Countries of the Economic Commission for Europe on Global Energy Supply in the Long Term**, vi plus 126 pp., tables and lists thereof, HS/222/91E; ISBN 92-1-131144-6

This publication covers the Expert Group Meeting held at Espoo, Finland, from 22 to 24 August 1990. It opens with a final statement which addresses key issues related to human settlements, energy, environment and sustainable development, not only in ECE countries but in all developed and developing countries. Linking ECE conservation policy with energy availability for developing countries, it notes that, "Stable real prices for energy, at appropriate levels, will encourage the production of adequate, sustainable and appropriate volumes for all fuels and support the development of alternative resources and conservation measures", thus serving the interests of both industrialized and developing countries.

The experts considered it essential to secure coordinated price and cost signals for the market, to ensure its relative stability. As for the restructuring of energy systems in Eastern Europe, a workshop to assist transition countries to formulate effective energy-conservation policies in the building sector might unlock the potential for energy-saving. Turning to energy-resource sustainability, the Meeting stated that long-term availability depended very much on the development and large-scale application of efficient and environmentally tolerable forms of new energy technologies, such as solar, fusion and hydrogen. Closing with a human settlements overview, the Group noted that energy conservation policies in ECE countries were crucial to environmental protection and in creating spare capacity -- even if developing countries were unable to gain access to them. Given the finite nature of fossil fuels and the impact of their use on the climate, efforts to replace them by new and renewable ones and to enhance their rational use, especially in the human settlements sector, should be encouraged at all levels.

The Report of the Meeting contains, *inter alia*, a summary of the discussions of issues, while annexes present the studies prepared for the Meeting:

- Energy-conservation policies of ECE Governments and their effects on national energy supplies;
- Energy policies of selected developing countries;
- Global energy supplies to the year 2010.

■ **Energy for Building: Improving energy efficiency in construction and in the production of building materials in developing countries**, x plus 104 pp., ample tables, figures, references and bibliography, HS/250/91 E; ISBN 92-1-131174-8

Increasing the efficiency of energy use in building-materials production is important for three further reasons beyond the obvious advantage of energy saving. It can help to make durable building materials available at prices which the average poor households can afford; it will help to reduce the environmental degradation caused by the excessive use of biomass fuels and conserve them for household use; and it will help to reduce the need for imported building materials or production processes.

This publication shows how to optimize energy use in building-materials production, sets forth the energy content of buildings and building components, and strategies for optimizing energy use in the building fabric. For example, clay tiles are simple to manufacture, but the energy required for firing them makes them more energy-intensive, per area of roof, than concrete or fibre-concrete tiles.

■ **Energy for Low-income Settlements**, vi plus 95 pp., figures, tables, references HS/245/91E; ISBN 92-1-131169-1

This book examines in detail three ways to make increased energy available to the rural and urban poor and to use available energy efficiently: increased biomass production, improved conversion efficiency and substitution by other fuels, i.e. switching. Possibilities exist for increasing the supply of biomass from homestead, crop and public land: planting of trees to increase the available supply of firewood for the local population is crucial to alleviating he domestic fuel crisis; the efficiency with which existing supplies of biomass are used can be

Table 3.7. Comparative energy requirements of alternative roofing assemblies for a pitched roof (per m^2)

Option	Material	Unit	Quantity	MJ/unit	MJ	Total
Corrugated galvanized-iron sheets (30 gauge)	Sheets	kg	10	60	600	
	Timber	m^3	.009	500	5	605
Clay tiles (12.5 mm)	Clay tiles	kg	50	3	150	
	Timber	m^3	015	500	7.5	158
Concrete tiles (12.5 mm)	Cement	kg	8	8	64	
	Sand/agg	kg	32	0.1	3.2	
	Timber	m^3	010	500	5.0	72
Fibre-concrete tiles (7 mm)	Cement	kg	5	8	40	
	Sand/agg	kg	16	0.1	1.6	
	Fibres	kg	25			
	Timber	m^3	008	500	4 46	

improved by introducing improved cooking stoves or biogas plants; and, apart from producing additional biomass for fuel and using existing sources efficiently, there may also be scope for relieving shortages by fuel switching.

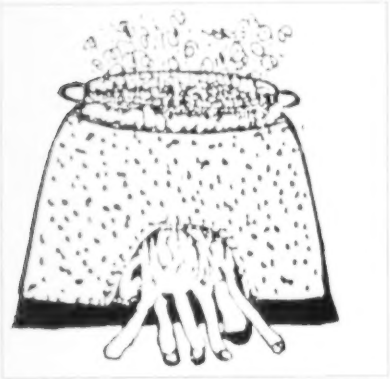


Figure 10. The improved three-stone stove (trois pierres améliorées)

The three possible types of solution are examined in detail. In addition to reducing fuel scarcity, these solutions could provide increased opportunities for setting up rural industries which would generate income and help in poverty alleviation. Thus the publication will be found useful for policy-makers as well as by officers and organizations involved. The annex is a case study of the improved Kenyan clay stove.

■ **Evaluation of Experience with Initiating Enabling Shelter Strategies**, iii plus 74 pp., bibliography, HS/238/91E; ISBN 92-1-131161-6

This study represents a systematic attempt to evaluate initial efforts at implementing the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS), based on case studies in Colombia, India, Nigeria and Thailand, plus less detailed evidence from other countries. Particular attention is given to bottlenecks in implementing enabling strategies, replicable experiences and experiments, innovative organization, appropriate indicators for measuring progress, and priorities for further research, experience-sharing and action.

The aim is to highlight early successes and difficulties, and to identify key areas for monitoring, rather than to reach firm conclusions about the GSS itself. Although the entire shelter sector is the focus of concern, priority is given to the situation of lower-income groups in major urban areas in developing countries. This reflects the scale and urgency of shelter problems facing these groups, together with the much lower priority usually awarded to housing by those living in rural areas. The Rural Housing Programmes in Malawi and in Kerala, India, provide rural shelter success stories. Where appropriate, such achievements are cited in the text.

■ **Focus on Women: A summary of the recommendations from the report on a UNCHS (Habitat) Seminar to Promote the Participation of Women in all Phases of the GSS**, ii plus 24 pp., photographs, HS/235/91E; ISBN 92-1-131158-6

This booklet answers the question "Why focus on women?", summarizes relevant portions of the GSS, plus regional seminar results on women and housing policy, women and construction, women and land, women and housing finance, community participation, and communications before specifying recommendations for main actors: national governments; local governments, community groups NGOs; UNCHS (Habitat) and the international community.

■ **Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: Sub-regional seminars to support national action**, iv plus 157 pp., boxes, notes, photographs, diagrams and charts, HS/251/91E; ISBN 92-1-131175-6

In accordance with the Plan of Action 1989-91 of the GSS, UNCHS (Habitat) organized a series of 10 sub-regional seminars on the GSS, held to provide governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a wider understanding of the guidelines for national action contained in the Strategy and the actions required at the national level towards the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies (NSSs). See illustration on next page.

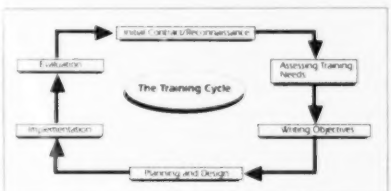
This publication presents highlights of those seminars, and overall conclusions. It also includes, *inter alia*, an overview of the GSS, NSS formulation, shelter indicators, access by the poor to basic urban services, and the roles of governments, the private sector, NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). Annexes include the Plan of Action for 1992-1993.

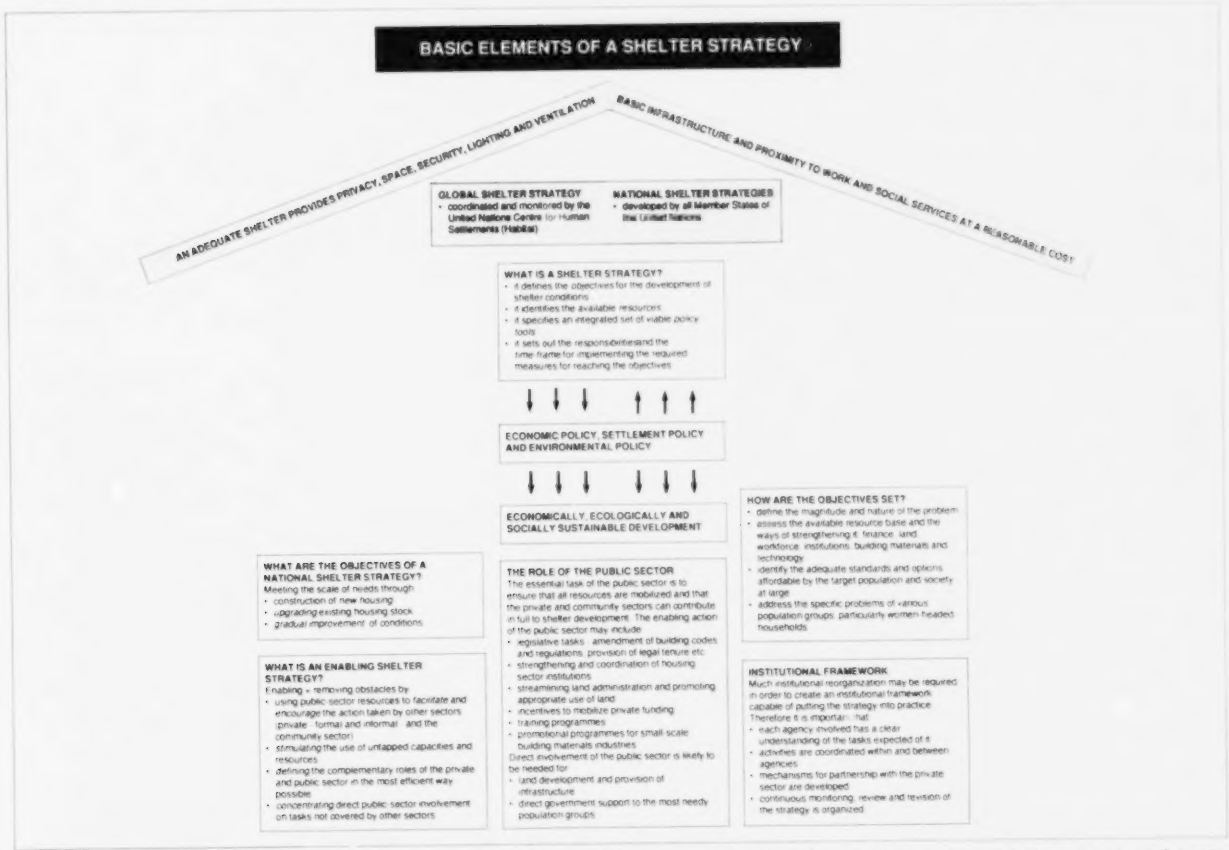
The section dealing with access by the poor to basic urban services, for example, notes that such services should be those that the poor need rather than the current mismatch. Similarly, the services and land uses required by the poor (such as subsistence agriculture or trade in or near the home) may be planned for, and laws and procedures changed. Other points made include the use of woodfuel by that population and their need for secure tenure and income rather than public housing. As each of these and other points are laid out, the issue is defined, the obstacles to change are outlined, successful experiences cited, and priority actions noted.

■ **Guide for Designing Effective Human Settlements Training Programmes**, 160 pp., copious illustrations, HS/256/91E; ISBN 92-1-131183-7

This publication is intended to help close the training information gap, and was tested during training courses conducted for UNCHS (Habitat) by one of the authors. It is written around in-house training, and stresses experiential learning.

It includes a blueprint, the case study, plus a tool kit, cross-referenced as much as possible. The audience is varied: new trainers, seasoned trainers who want to get out of a rut, in-house training teams, and trainers convened for a workshop on the task of training design. Commentaries and summaries abound. Here is the summary of case studies: "A well-constructed case gives the learner the opportunity to take an active part in analysing and discussing real-life situations. Case materials present practical work illustrations with which participants are already familiar. The realism of the case and the involvement in it with other participants

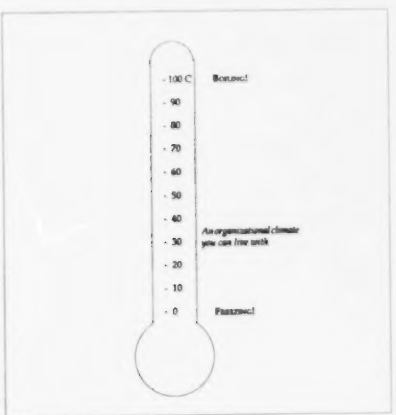



BASIC ELEMENTS OF A SHELTER STRATEGY
AN ADEQUATE SHELTER PROVIDES PRIVACY, SPACE, SECURITY, LIGHTING AND VENTILATION
BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROXIMITY TO WORK AND SOCIAL SERVICES AT A REASONABLE COST
GLOBAL SHELTER STRATEGY
• coordinated and monitored by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
NATIONAL SHELTER STRATEGIES
• developed by all Member States of the United Nations
WHAT IS A SHELTER STRATEGY?
• it defines the objectives for the development of shelter conditions
• it identifies the available resources
• it specifies an integrated set of viable policy tools
• it sets out the responsibilities and the time-frame for implementing the required measures for reaching the objectives
ECONOMIC POLICY, SETTLEMENT POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
ECONOMICALLY, ECOLOGICALLY AND SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF A NATIONAL SHELTER STRATEGY?
Meeting the scale of needs through:
• construction of new housing
• upgrading existing housing stock
• gradual improvement of conditions
WHAT IS AN ENABLING SHELTER STRATEGY?
Enabling = removing obstacles by:
• using public sector resources to facilitate and encourage the action taken by other sectors (private formal and informal and the community sector)
• stimulating the use of untapped capacities and resources
• defining the complementary roles of the private and public sector in the most efficient way possible
• concentrating direct public sector involvement on tasks not covered by other sectors
THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR
The essential task of the public sector is to ensure that all resources are mobilized and that the private and community sectors can contribute in full to shelter development. The enabling action of the public sector may include:
• legislative tasks: amendment of building codes and regulations, provision of legal tenure etc.
• strengthening and coordination of housing sector institutions
• streamlining land administration and promoting appropriate use of land
• incentives to mobilize private funding
• training programmes
• promotional programmes for small-scale building materials industries
Direct involvement of the public sector is likely to be needed for:
• land development and provision of infrastructure
• direct government support to the most needy population groups
HOW ARE THE OBJECTIVES SET?
• define the magnitude and nature of the problem
• assess the available resource base and the ways of strengthening it: finance, land, workforce, institutions, building materials and technology
• identify the adequate standards and options affordable by the target population and society at large
• address the specific problems of various population groups, particularly women-headed households
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
Much institutional reorganization may be required in order to create an institutional framework capable of putting the strategy into practice. Therefore it is important that:
• each agency involved has a clear understanding of the tasks expected of it
• activities are coordinated within and between agencies
• mechanisms for partnership with the private sector are developed
• continuous monitoring, review and revision of the strategy is organized

stimulate the learner to move from the known to the unknown; acts as a springboard for the acceptance of new knowledge, skills and attitudes."

In the closing note the reader is told that since we learn by doing, "Get out there and design some training."

■ Guide for Managing Change for Urban Managers and Trainers. 180 pp., notes, HS/151/89E; ISBN 92-1-130077-6



This publication is another in the series of material for general management and organizational development for urban managers. It covers a variety of training programmes directed at closing the principal skill gaps and promoting new approaches, methods and techniques in general management and organization of development needed by urban managers. Materials in this Guide support the demand-driven, client-centred and action-oriented training approach.

It too was tested during training courses in Africa and Asia directed by the author on behalf of UNCHS (Habitat) and in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank. He notes the variety of ways in which he himself has used the learning designs in the guide, including case studies, operational analysis, management team building and action planning for new projects.

Included are concepts and strategies about the managing change process, a variety of exercises and experiential ideas on how to apply the conceptual materials to the experiences of the trainees and their work environment, and trainer notes on how to plan, implement and manage the various training events.

■ Housing-finance Manual for Developing Countries: A methodology for designing housing-finance institutions. ii plus 134 pp., boxes, glossary, note for resource persons HS/258/91E; ISBN 92-1-131186-1

This manual provides the necessary instruction for devising housing-finance strategies appropriate to the needs of developing countries. It can also be used to provide the basis for a course of training in housing finance, for the evaluation of housing-finance policies and proposals, and for the preparation of briefs or terms of reference for such evaluations. It has been tested in training courses at the Department Planning Unit, University College, London, with participants from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The manual introduces a seven-stage approach for developing a housing-finance strategy. Each stage is presented as a series of tasks for those unfamiliar with the action

required. For clarification, there are notes that provide an introduction to the salient aspects, while a set of readings has been included to provide further background information. Sources are cited, and rules-of-thumb provided for situations where actual information is not readily available.

As a training tool, this publication can be used for individual or group training, with or without the help of an instructor, and may range from one to six weeks.

■ **Integrating Housing Finance into the National Finance Systems of Developing Countries: Exploring the potentials and the problems**, ii plus 93 pp., tables, boxes, notes and annexes on housing and development strategy and illustrative case studies, HS/227/91E; ISBN 92-1-131149-7

This research report examines the potential of "integration" for improving the efficiency and volume of the financial flow to developing countries' shelter sectors, as well as the principles under which such a system should operate. It identifies the problems that policies must confront and overcome to bring an "integrated" system into being. In doing this, such issues are highlighted as the necessary predisposing macroeconomic conditions, supportive legal and regulatory frameworks, effective supervisory institutions and support mechanisms, liquidity, interest-rate and credit risks, and issues regarding appropriate instruments.

On the basis of the analysis, the report offers conclusions and suggestions for strengthening housing-finance systems in developing countries generally and approaches to financial integration in particular.

■ **Karachi Master Plan: Strengthening the planning process**, 12 pp., figures and photos

This project monograph describes how the UNDP/UNCHS (Habitat) project PAK/86/029 assisted in the adoption of new planning methods leading to a more dynamic development plan for the city of Karachi. The plan aims to guide development activities by establishing a broad framework for sectoral planning, providing information on the overall direction and dimension of growth, and forecasting future demands for urban services. Significant to success are the emphasis on the use of information as a planning tool, and the introduction of an annual planning report to monitor implementation and link it to development financing through the annual budget.

Figure 6: Scenario modeling process

The monograph outlines the key findings of sector studies, and the use of information tools -- an urban database, a set of 16 urban indicators, and urban growth models comprising in turn land-use demand and supply, infrastructure and service, and financial summary. These models were used to evaluate three growth scenarios (a trend scenario, expansion scenario and consolidation scenario), which led to a fourth scenario incorporating elements modeled by the master plan staff. Because the urban growth models are conceptually very simple, and since they have been implemented using standard commercial spreadsheet software, they can easily be adapted to other cities in Pakistan or elsewhere in the world.

■ **The Management of Revolving Funds for House Improvement Loans**, iv plus 135 pp., footnotes, charts, tables, cartoons, HS/221/91 E; ISBN 92-1-131 143-8

This is another of the series of UNCHS (Habitat) training manuals. It is based on the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)/National Housing Institute (INVI) Experimental Housing Improvement and Community Mobilization Project, Santiago, Dominican Republic, and can be used either independently or with the 31-minute GTZ video, "Housing Improvement Loans".

As the title indicates, the manual is mainly concerned with the administration of the revolving fund, and may provide a guide for professionals involved in administering revolving-fund programmes. An introduction answers the question "What is it all about?", while the two main sections deal with the loans and their administration. The urbanization of Alfredo A. Sanchez Rosario is followed in vivid detail, and the sheer realism carries the reader on. For example, we receive details of an interview with his common-law or "free-union" wife by a social worker. "After half an hour of complaints about the Government and Municipality, inflation, the school, the children, the husband, the neighbors and the weather, Miguelina confessed that periodically she receives money from her sister in New York and has some savings, but Alfredo does not

and should not know anything about it. Based on this information and her general impressions of the house, Rosa recommends approval of the loan and suggests that Alfredo may repay $RD 105 to 130 ($US 16.53 to 20.47) per month." Later we learn that he would repay $RD 129.63 monthly for a period of two years.

The critical evaluation at the end stresses that the methodology and procedures have been portrayed with concrete examples, clearly identifying the problems and constraints involved. They point out, for example, that "Self-help is often a myth rather than a reality", and that an interest-rate subsidy is probably the most effective and socially the most justified form of subsidy, and that the loan recovery period should be minimized to diminish the impact of inflation.

■ Micro-computer based GIS: Report on the UNCHS (Habitat) Inventory of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). iv plus 89 pp., tables, HS/261/91E

This report aims to provide potential buyers with descriptions of the more interesting GISs on the market and to indicate which systems have capabilities which settlement planners might find useful. It includes discussion of system features, conclusions and recommendations on choosing a GIS, and 15 system descriptions.

By "micro-computers" is meant "desktop GIS", high-end PC/DOS systems, while an upper price limit of $US 20,000 for software for a single user installation was set. The GIS packages in the inventory had to have a working link to a database together with flexible graphics and mapping capabilities, and be in professional use in urban and regional planning. Special emphasis was given to packages that included optical disks in the system configuration. Twenty GIS producers were approached, and 15 descriptions of varying detail and completeness received.

■ Report of the Inter-regional Workshop on Integration of Housing Finance into the National Finance Systems of Developing Countries, Goa, India, 10-14 June 1991. iii plus 66 pp., charts, tables, notes, HS/243/91E; ISBN 92-1-11167-5

Senior managers of public- or private-sector housing finance institutions in India, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe met in Goa, India, under the sponsorship of UNCHS (Habitat) and the Housing Development Finance Corporation of Bombay, India. This is the report of that meeting.

It includes opening addresses, national reports, a summary of the technical (working) paper, a summary of main issues and discussions, conclusions and recommendations for strengthening housing-finance systems in developing countries.

■ Rural Settlement Development in Developing Countries: Selected case studies. iii plus 77 pp., figures, footnotes, references, HS/244/91E; ISBN 92-1-131168-3

This volume brings together edited versions of studies of experiences with rural human settlements development projects and programmes which highlight four fundamental issues: the need for decentralized, participatory frameworks, the potential of an enabling approach, the importance of income-generating elements, and of appropriate technology in rural shelter programmes.

Case studies include establishment of a local-level planning system in support of decentralization and integrated rural development in Ghana, the thousand socialist villages programme in Algeria, the Grameen Bank project in Bangladesh, rural shelter development in earthquake-prone areas using appropriate technology in Ecuador, and the Honduras integrated rural settlement programme.

■ Technology in Human Settlements: Role of construction. ii plus 91 pp., boxes and references, HS/262/91E; ISBN 92-1-131182-9

This report examines the problems and constraints that get in the way of increased exploitation of technology in human-settlements development. The experience of developed countries is analysed, to identify possible approaches relevant to developing countries, and a framework of action is indicated to speed technology application in such countries.

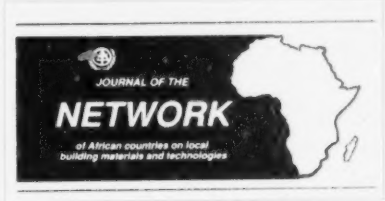
Chapter I provides the conceptual background and analytical framework, while chapter II deals with technology policies and their impact on human settlements development, giving country examples. Chapter III, which discusses the current status of technology application in developing countries in different areas of human settlements development, underscores the need for upgrading of the informal sector. Chapter IV synthesizes the salient issues and problems, while the final chapter outlines a strategy for improving the role of construction technology in human settlements. Measures to be taken at the corporate level, at national and international levels are discussed, with a time-bound plan of action.

Serials

■ Bibliographic Notes No. 20, 9 pp., ISSN 0257-7216

This issue of BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES emphasizes the relationship between crowding and health in low-income human settlements in the developing world, a topic which UNCHS (Habitat) is to explore in selected low-income settlements of West Africa and Indonesia. The items included in this issue are arranged by alphabetical order of title under six sub-headings: general, gastro-intestinal infections, measles, psychological stress, respiratory tract infections and others. Input from readers to complement or update the list is welcomed.

■ Journal of the Network of African countries on local building materials and technologies Vol. 1, No. 3, ISSN 1012-9812



As the foreword notes, this issue of the journal highlights technical aspects of building materials, including several examples of research carried out in Malawi and Nigeria. Other articles describe East African roof thatching techniques being tested

in India, and corrugated roofing sheets from coir-waste or wood-wool and Portland cement. A publications review and events section round out the journal.

■ **UNCHS (Habitat) Shelter Bulletin** vol. 4, No. 3

Lead article on "Enabling leaders and community participation", with a summary of subregional seminars, NSS meetings, country news and efforts by NGOs, professional organizations and the private sector.

Copies of these publications are available from the Centre's information dissemination offices in Amman, Bangkok, Beijing, Budapest, Geneva, Madras, Mexico City and Ottawa; from the New York Office; or from the Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi.

Habitat through others' eyes

International Information 1/92 highlighted the provision of adequate shelter for all as an issue in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. An overview of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 covered both activities that should be undertaken and the means of implementation. The article concluded with the need to increase international aid to the human-settlements sector.

"Urban environmental vulnerability explored by World Bank, UNDP, Habitat" is the title of an article in the Summer 1992 *Environment Bulletin* on the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in Metropolitan Areas project being conducted by those three agencies in Turkey, the Philippines and Brazil, aiming to improve both the environment and hazard resistance in densely populated areas. The same project was also featured in the March/April 1992 issue of the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction newsletter, *Stop Disasters*; readers are referred to UNCHS (Habitat) for further information.

The commemorative issue (1972-1992) of *UNDRO News* of March/April 1992 reports on the third session of the Scientific and Technical Committee. It refers to "very encouraging progress reports" from United Nations agencies, including UNCHS (Habitat) on international demonstration projects.

DPU News 26 (February 1992) carried an article on the Government of Finland/UNCHS Support Programme for preparing national shelter strategies. It spoke of the need for other bilateral aid agencies, at the request of third world Governments, to orient their technical cooperation programmes to assist institutional development and capacity-building within the shelter sector.

The *IRC Newsletter* No. 203 (October-November 1991) led with an article on urbanization: water supply and sanitation sector challenges. In this case, the need to create an enabling environment and the corresponding provision of basic services, within the framework of strategic service planning, is seen as essential to avoid a crisis of the urban environment and indeed national development.

EVENTS

International Association for the Development and Management of Existing and New Towns (INTA) 16th Annual Conference

The INTA 16th Annual Conference which will take place in Madrid, Barcelona and Seville, Spain, from 25 October to 1 November 1992 is organized in cooperation with the Confederation of Employers of Madrid (CEIM), a leading industrial association which plays an important role in urban affairs.

The theme of the Conference in Madrid will be the **"Urban Renaissance in Europe"** as an example of large-scale urban policy and management. In Barcelona it will examine how the Olympiads are used to restructure the City and the Region of Catalonia . "The Day After" is the subtitle of the session in Seville, where the way in which the urban planning project as part of Seville Expo 92 is to be re-used for the benefit of the community will be demonstrated. Free transportation will be provided from Madrid to Seville or Barcelona. This programme has been prepared to provide the opportunity to meet the designers and implementors of these major urban projects and to discuss achievements with participants.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained from: International Secretariat/Secrétariat International Nassau Dillenburgstraat 44, NL-2596 AE, The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 (70) 3244526; Fax: +31 (70) 3280727.

"Environmental and human resource development through community development"

AIDAC, the International Association for Development and Community Action, in collaboration with the Community Development Department of the Thai Ministry of Interior and the Province de Hainaut, Belgium, is holding an International Seminar on the theme "Environmental and human resource development through community development" to take place at Banglamung, Thailand, from 19 to 22 April 1993. It is a follow-up of previous meetings in Paris (December 1991), New Delhi (February 1992) and Rio de Janeiro (June 1992). Group work and professional visits will form part of the schedule.

Further information from: AIDAC 179, rue du Débarcadère 6001 Marcinelle, Belgium Tel.: (0) 71/36.62.73 - 43.29.20/21 - 43.20.72 - 43.31.83; Fax (0)71/47.11.04.

Advanced Housing of the World '93

The environmental issues challenging the home building and building products industries today are the business opportunities of tomorrow. Those meeting this challenge with new technologies, products, ideas or ways of working, will have the opportunity to show their expertise to colleagues from around the world at the Advanced Housing of the World 93 week-long international conference from 20 to 26 June 1993 at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The trilingual (English, French and Japanese) conference will highlight the technology, products and methods for making homes more energy-efficient, environmentally responsible and healthier for their occupants. The conference organizer is the Buildings Group, Energy Efficiency Division of CANMET, the research and development arm of Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. The conference will be geared to the practical application of innovative housing technologies; participants will have the opportunity to examine and discuss technologies and prototypes on the cutting edge of this industry.

Further information from: Karen Greig, CANMET, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, 580 Booth Street, 7th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6. Tel:(613) 943-2259; Fax:(613) 996-9416.

Terra 93

The 7th international conference on the study and conservation of earthen architecture, "Terra 93", will be held at Silves, Portugal, from 24 to 29 October 1993. Building on the results of previous conferences, which were organized to promote ideas, experiences, methods and research on the earthen architectural heritage, this conference seeks to provide a forum for further exchange of information in this domain and also aims to strengthen the link between preservation and development.

Invited experts will introduce the following themes: History and Tradition, Methodology and Conservation Techniques, Field Research in Conservation, Seismic Problems, Industrial Perspectives, Future Directions in the Conservation and Use of Earthen Architecture. Official languages of the conference are English, French and Portuguese; simultaneous translation will be provided. Field trips to places of interest to the earthen architectural heritage are planned for the post-conference period, and daily tours to historic and tourist areas in the south of Portugal will be organized for those accompanying conference participants.

Further information from: Terra 93, D.G.E.M.N., 1194 Lisboa Codex Portugal

COURSES

Centre for Environmental Management and Planning (CEMP)

CEMP is part of Aberdeen University Research and Industrial Services (AURIS) Ltd. Since 1972 it has undertaken research, training, consultancy and the provision of environmental information services in many aspects of environmental management and impact assessment.

An Advanced Policy Workshop, "The Road from Rio: THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES" will be held at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, from 6 to 12 September 1992.

Further information from: Centre for Environmental Management and Planning, 23 St Machar Drive, Old Aberdeen AB2 1RY, Scotland, UK Tel: (0224) 272483/272480; Fax: (0224) 487658.

■ Développement-Aménagement -Construction (DAC)

DAC will be holding a COURSE ON "CENTRALITY, HISTORY, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT" from 25 January to 2 April 1993. The ninth in a series, it will be organized in four modules and two practical workshops. The introductory module offering the theory and applying it to the third world will be followed by modules on "Centrality, society and urban development -- including a case study on sub-Sahelian Africa, the Arab world, Asia, and Latin America; another on "Centrality, history and the formation of the city", and final one on "Interventions: approaches, methods and projects" -- with case studies in Belgium and elsewhere in Europe plus the third world. A study trip to Milan, Italy, is envisaged, as are two workshops, one on comparative experiences of the participants and the other with two multi-cultural, multidisciplinary groups, one presenting a case study on Africa and the otheron Latin America. The course is financed by AGCD, Administration Générale de la Coopération au Développement and organized by l'Institut Supérieur d'Architecture de la Communauté Française - La Cambre, with support from UNCHS (Habitat).

Further information from Stage DAC, ISA-LA CAMBRE, Place Eugène Flagey, 19 à B-1050, Bruxelles, Belgium.

■ Development Planning Unit (DPU)

The DPU, a centre in University College London, is launching an advanced one-year postgraduate course in October 1992, leading to a University of London M.Sc. degree in the ECONOMICS OF URBANIZATION AND THE CITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, to train people in dealing with the problems of accelerated urbanization and the economic issues facing city management. The overall central task, to identify methods of enhancing urban productivity and to tackle the other central problems confronting cities, is to be achieved through three main components, specialized options and the preparation of a dissertation. The components, each relating to developing countries, include:

- Economic development, urbanization and the city;
- Methods of analysis and appraisal;
- The city and metropolitan growth.

The course is designed to attract economists -- or those who wish to work as economists -- who are either currently working in, or intending to work in government agencies, private companies or non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutes, multilateral or bilateral aid agencies and consultancies.

Candidates for admission should have a first degree (with a minimum of Second Class honours), awarded by a university or polytechnic approved by the University of London. The degree should be in economics, geography, planning or a related social science field, acceptable to the College Faculty of Environmental Studies. Candidates who lack the required qualifications but have other relevant educational or professional experience may in exceptional circumstances be considered. The course is a full-time option within the programme, Master of Science in Urban Development Planning, awarded by the Faculty of Economics of the University of London.

Further information from: The Admissions Secretary, Development Planning Unit, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0ED. Tel: (+44 71) 388 7581; Fax: (+44 71) 387 4541

■ Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)

The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) will hold its 60th and 61st International Courses on Housing, Planning and Building (ICHPB) from 6 August to 18 December 1992 and 14 January to 4 June 1993. The five-month courses, conducted in English, are designed to assist professionals from third world countries to increase their capability to deal effectively with urban development and housing policies, programmes and projects.

The ICHPB concentrates on the housing of low-income people, which is viewed as an evolutionary and participatory process, a system of interactions between institutions and residents that gives shape to human settlements. The courses are divided into four workshops: (60th ICHPB) Urban Development -- Finance, Economics and Planning, Urban Management and Planning, Environment and Basic Infrastructure, and Urban Heritage -- Housing Renewal; (61st ICHPB) Urban Development -- Economics, Finance and Planning, Urban Management and Community Development, Geographic Information Systems and Land Management, and Housing and Neighbourhood Design.

Candidates should have professional experience and be engaged in work related to the field of low-income housing and/or urban development, should have a first degree, and should have proficiency in English.

IHS application forms and further information from: The Registrar, IHS, P.O. Box 1935, 3000 BX, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

■ MIT/CENDEP

The SIGUS Group in the School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and CENDEP - Centre for Development and Environmental Planning, Schools of Architecture and Planning, Oxford Polytechnic, will be holding their BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP on "RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT: PARADIGMS AND PRACTICES", from 26 October to 6

November 1992 at Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Geared towards planners, architects, and other policy-makers in the fields of development, housing and design, the workshops were established in 1982 to debate and challenge conventional thinking on trends and key issues in third world Housing. Workshop faculty are drawn from academic and professional organizations including MIT, Oxford Polytechnic, and Harvard University, as well as other research institutions, international development agencies, NGOs and professional consultant groups.

The first week of this year's event, 26 to 29 October, is organized in a seminar setting where participants will have an opportunity to examine their experience with other practitioners, experts, and faculty. Three emerging themes will be highlighted: environmental change, gender in planning, and patterns of development investment. The second week, 2 to 6 November, will be structured around short, technical workshops exploring methods in practice, offering sessions on computers in development, learning from projects, planning for self-settlement, micro- planning techniques, use of "process profiles" of communities, and cost-benefit analysis.

Special features include film and slide presentations, sessions with faculty from MIT and other schools in the Cambridge area, and a tour of Boston inner-city housing projects. Participants are welcome to attend the 25th anniversary of the MIT Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) October 30 and 31. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Further information from: Reinhard Goethert, SIGUS Group, School of Architecture and Planning, MIT, Room 5-416, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 USA, Fax 617-253-8993; or Nabeel Hamdi, CENDEP, Oxford Polytechnic, Gipsy Lane, Oxford OX OBO, UK, Fax 0865-819298.

■ University of Wales, Swansea

The Centre for Development Studies, which offered its first courses in 1950, promotes the study of development policy and planning in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. Courses are offered for development workers, administrators, planners, and academics working in these countries.

The Centre's teaching programme includes the following:

- Research supervision leading to the degree of PhD or MPhil;
- MSc taught courses (12 months);
- Post-graduate diplomas (9 months);
- Short study programmes (10 weeks);
- BSc (Econ) in Development Studies;
- Diploma in Development Studies;

Further information from: The Admissions Secretary, Centre for Development Studies, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales, UK. Tel:0792 295332; Fax: 0792 295682.

■ Newcastle Upon Tyne/Obafemi Awolowo University

This photograph shows participants and lecturers at a SPECIAL COURSE IN URBAN UPGRADING for professionals in housing, planning and construction, which took place at the Department of Architecture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, on 1 to 14 March 1992. It was part of a joint effort with the Centre for Architectural Research and Development Overseas (CARDO) in the School of Architecture of the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

■ Philip Amis and Peter Lloyd, eds., *Housing Africa's Urban Poor*, xii plus 305 pp., notes and references, conclusions/resumés for French and English articles respectively (Manchester U. Press, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK, 1990) ISBN 0-7190-30-20 hardback.

The result of a November 1986 seminar, this ambitious work highlights the key themes in contemporary African urbanization before offering a number of chapters on housing in urban Africa.

The first section gives an overview of African political economy, noting that the prospects of African development have been shattered with the failure since 1960 to increase agricultural productivity, increasing Western control, the present recession, and political instability. As for urbanization, Amis feels that the rate might actually decline. He also questions the "causal and necessary connection between increased migration and urban problems, [which] presupposes a static model, limited information and an aggregated model of society". These three assumptions are examined in turn, with flaws and contradictions exposed. Academic and administrative responses to urbanization are examined, the latter being in an admitted over-simplification as either repressive or *laissez-faire*, with the former becoming untenable by the 1980s given the sheer scale of demographic increase. Finally, the implications of change for the housing market are presented. Here too nothing is taken for granted, and underlying ideas are spelled out. For example, he disentangles the two aspects of squatting -- illegal occupation and self-construction, and stresses that "the key point about illegality as an aspect of squatting is that it generally discouraged capital investment in this sector."

The first section of specific articles continues the themes of the introduction by examining the changing approaches to urban housing in Africa. Stren's research, for example, shows that site-and-service projects require large public subsidies and have a tendency to go to more affluent groups -- precisely the criticism of conventional housing policies which these projects were to replace. Coquery concludes his case study of Lomé in Togo by asking whether the emergence of renting is a response to the economic crisis or a structural change in urban development.

The second section examines the changing nature of housing markets across Africa. Unni Wikan in her longitudinal (1950-1985) study of the poor in Cairo discovered that middle-class families which invested in education and formal jobs were less successful than the families of manual workers investing in property which often becomes a vehicle for upward mobility! Again, Diana Lee-Smith's chapter comparing two areas of Nairobi points out that the informal allocation in the unauthorized settlement is more arbitrary and inequitable than the more formal sites-and-service scheme.

The third section considers issues of housing policy and urban shelter projects. Teedon's piece on low-income housing in Harare exposes the contradiction in attempting to restrict the resale of low-income housing. As Amis puts it, "Nobody improves (or invests in) their house without an assurance that they can recoup the capital gain. The implication is that successful tenure reform is more than freedom from demolition; it requires ownership, which includes the right to sale."

The book is rounded off with an epilogue by Peter Lloyd. Again the comments are both straightforward and acute. "Some people are able to save, invest and accumulate; others are consuming less as prices rise faster than incomes. The rich are getting richer, the poor poorer. For each, housing is usually an element in the process." And again, "Many writers have argued that squatters will build only when they have been assured of legal title to their plot; more plausible, I think, is a view that a substantial house itself gives *de facto* security -- the political furore over the eradication of an established suburb is much greater than over a few flimsy shacks. But if a government is resolute in its eviction practices the poorest among the poor will have little choice but to sleep on the streets."

■ Building and Social Housing Foundation, *The World Habitat Awards 1985-1989: Innovative and successful solutions to global housing problems* (B+SHF, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leics. LE6 4EU, December 1991), 152 pp., approximately 150 colour photographs, figures, tables, ISBN 0 9512783 7 1, £15

The Building and Social Housing Foundation has produced this book to make these examples of innovative and successful solutions to housing problems around the world even better known. The 13 projects described are all winners of the World Habitat Award competition held annually by B+SHF in cooperation with UNCHS (Habitat). They cover a range of problems -- including housing the homeless, inner-city restoration and the efficient use of energy and self-build methods in the developed world; and, in the developing world, provision of large-scale low-cost housing for the poorest of the poor, new technologies and innovative funding mechanisms. The winning projects (in Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Japan, Malawi, Poland, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Venezuela) have been chosen for their replicability. Each is described in terms of background, aims, salient features, replication, and importance.

The Ismailia Development Projects in Egypt, for example, are described as the first self-financing, urban settlement upgrading and sites-and-services programmes to be successfully implemented in that country. They have enabled nearly 100,000 low-income people, more than 30 per cent of Ismailia's population, to gain access to land with secure tenure and basic, affordable infrastructure. Community facilities and better employment opportunities, and the use of the informal sector make these projects "development models with significance not only in Egypt, but throughout other developing [countries]".

Lessons learnt from the Hai El Salaam and Abu Atwa projects include:

- the potential of the urban poor to provide shelter for themselves, at an affordable price, while following a broad set of plans and rules. "In essence, Ismailia has formalized the 'informal' sector, but managed to avoid the problems of the existing formal housing system.";

- the value of an approach which realizes that the development of the economic, social and cultural welfare of the community is as important as a permanent home. Hence the creation of small workshops operating from house plots, and social amenities such as the Hai El Salaam social club;
- viewing the people involved as participating citizens, involved in decision-making and cooperating with the project agencies. (They chose, for example, to adopt straight, wide streets instead of traditional road patterns).

Local replicability has already been achieved, e.g. in the Nifisha Project and Manshia El Shauhada Upgrading Projects, and also in the Cairo and Giza Governorates, which have decided to establish similar housing programmes.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Shelter for the Homeless, San Diego, USA, serves as an example to the developed world on how to rehabilitate and return homeless people to the larger community. Thus it serves both the short- and long-term needs of the homeless (providing board and lodging, medicine, counselling, education, employment preparation and skills acquisition). As the write-up states, "[C]ommunity involvement has been the key to the Village's success in serving the homeless, both initially in raising capital for its construction and in assisting with its daily running" -- with some 400 volunteers involved. Similarly, community fund raising (through individual contributions, fundraising events and corporate grants) accounted for 63.5 per cent of total funding in 1990.

Since the granting of the Award in October 1988, the programme has been expanded to add on an 150-bed shelter and a long-term facility for runaway teenagers. Looking ahead, a ten-year campaign to raise $40 million for further expansion is being planned, and some 15 cities in the USA have sent delegations to the village with an eye to incorporating aspects of it into their own projects.

The book concludes with a note on B+SHF, the Awards, and a list of publications.

■ **Association of Metropolitan Development Authorities (India), *Housing Strategy for Metropolitan Cities*** (AMDA Secretariat, 7/6 Sirifort Institutional Area, Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi- 110049, India, 1991), v plus 159 pp., tables, footnotes

This "Special issue on housing, October 1991" offers the report on a workshop on the topic "Housing strategy for Metropolitan Cities", held at Darjeeling on 20 and 21 September 1991, and organized and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development and National Housing Bank, both of India.

The editorial by R.G. Gupta, Hon. Secretary of AMDA, puts the work in perspective as he cites the need for the private, cooperative and public sectors to contribute to financing and the government to take an enabling approach. NGOs and community groups may then contribute to meeting shelter needs. Both informal and formal sector entrepreneurs require encouragement, training and technical assistance in basic skills (such as budgeting and inventory control), while price and rent control laws and regulations also have a role to play.

The first part of the publication gives the 14 recommendations grouped in three categories: urban policy and strategies, housing finance, and shelter and basic services for the urban poor. These include, for example, making the land acquisition procedures simpler and faster, tapping household savings through market borrowing and mobilizing commercial-bank savings, and reducing subsidies for basic services -- to make the public agencies responsible financially viable and to ensure adequate funds to provide those services for the poor. The recommendations are followed by records of discussion of the workshop.

Part two consists of 12 papers dealing with various problems and prospects of the shelter sector in India, while part three, "Compilation of information", contains an AMDA questionnaire for local authorities and a letter to member authorities seeking information on housing so that a journal, "Housing in Metropolitan Cities in India" might be compiled.

■ **Joanne Fox-Przeworski et al., eds. *Urban Regeneration in a Changing Economy: An international perspective***, (Clarendon Press, Oxford, OUP, Walton St., OX2 6DP, UK, 1991), figures, tables and lists thereof, list of contributors, references ISBN 0 19 823289 6 £35 hardback.

Regardless of political persuasion or economic theory, most scholars would agree that the economies of the advanced industrial countries are going through profound structural change. This book analyses the various components of such change, looks at case studies (from Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the USA), and attempts to ascertain the factors that seem most conducive to successful urban regeneration.

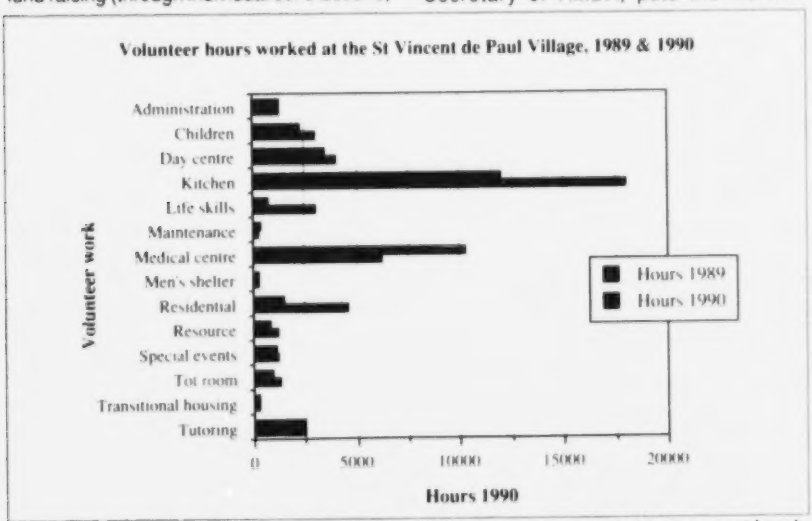


Figure 11 Volunteer work - The St Vincent de Paul Village is crucially aided by the unpaid work of over 400 volunteers from medical, dental, catering, business, social work and teaching professions. In 1990 alone, their involvement saved the Village nearly $700,000 in salary

The first part includes various themes in the restructuring process -- the transformations towards new and high-technology industries, from manufacturing to services, from a production economy to an information economy, from predominantly large to smaller firms, and from central government responsibilities to subnational authorities and private-sector actors. "When taken together, these developments comprise an ensemble of the opportunities available for urban economic regeneration policies." The second part of the book highlights the (inter)-relationship between distinct policy areas and the need for mutual reinforcement between, e.g., small business and physical planning. A number of dimensions are seen to influence the capacity of the city to adapt successfully to changing economic circumstances: the degree of diversity of existing economic structures, the pace of change, the length of time over which economic decline has been taking place, and the locus of economic development initiatives.

In the end, four key factors are identified for successful urban economic regeneration:

- The recognition of problems and opportunities (related to location, size of city and natural resources; infrastructure and capital stock, land and property, labour, capital and business climate);
- The delineation of strategies and objectives (specifying objectives, means and measures and the appropriate mechanics for implementation -- involving both comprehensiveness and flexibility);
- The identification of actors and institutions (using both ad hoc committees and key individuals plus established institutions, with community-wide involvement and perseverance as major elements);
- The development of appropriate methods and priorities (using "learning by doing" and linking the redevelopment schemes to broader objectives (e.g., the creation of inner-city jobs for the semi-skilled).

Figure 2.1 Taxonomy of information occupations

■ **Intermediate Technology Publications, *Shelter, Settlements, Policy and the Poor: Proceedings of the 8th Inter-schools Conference on Appropriate Technologies and Policies for Low-income Settlements*** (Stoneleigh, UK, spring 1991, vi plus 138 pp., figures, tables, notes, bibliographies, references, list of authors and participants, ISBN 1 85339 125 5

As Reinhard Skinner notes in his introduction to this report, "The breadth of country coverage was matched by the range of topics: papers on housing design and settlement planning were complemented by others dealing with urban health and information needs, while comparative institutional analysis was accompanied by questions of infrastructure choice. The papers...display a variety of views, held together by a unity of belief in the necessary interrelationship of disciplines in understanding settlement problems, and a commitment to collaboration between the poor and the professions, both qualified to contribute to the search for solutions."

Three reports (on training and education, self-build and community initiatives, and on infrastructure, health and services) are followed by 19 papers, grouped in three sections: policies and institutions, technologies for human settlements, and issues and appropriate responses. The most intriguing title is that of Ross Gilhome's article on reconstruction attempts in Nicaragua -- "I want to grow houses, or the 7.62 mm (4.9 kg) Galil Assault Rifle as an Essential Tool in the Construction Process!". The former part refers to a comment by the engineer in charge of of the Nicaraguan building research programme, who said while looking at a bamboo forest, "Yo voy a sembrar casas!", while the latter refers to the stabilized adobe withstanding both single shots and a burst of rifle fire.

■ **Scott Leckie, *From Housing Needs to Housing Rights: An Analysis of the Right to Adequate Housing Under International Human Rights Law*** (International Institute for Environment and Development, 3 Endsleigh St. London WC1H 0DD, UK, 1992), vii plus 109 pp., footnotes, list of abbreviations, appendixes,selected bibliography, ISBN 0905347 78 1

Writing on behalf of the Human Settlements Programme, IIED, the author seeks to provide a framework for a non-lawyer to use in order to understand "the many diverse issues associated with housing rights as they are currently found under international human rights law". The report documents the growing movement for Governments to respect the right to housing, and shows which Governments are bound by relevant laws and how such rights can be enforced and protected.

Relevant texts are examined -- both international human rights law and national laws and constitutions (the Honduran constitution, for example, states, inter alia, that 'All Hondurans have the right to decent housing...'). The procedures and mandates of monitoring bodies such as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are also outlined. The report offers suggestions for citizen groups and NGOs on how and where to use the existing law and implementation procedures and mechanisms, and their potential role in changing them. This publication is seen as the first step in helping to "initiate a long-term process towards a greater understanding of the human right to adequate housing and a more fruitful utilization of this legal norm geared to the needs of the urban and rural poor throughout the world".

■ **John Pickford et al., eds. *Infrastructure, Environment, Water and People: Proceedings of the 17th WEDC Conference*** (Nairobi, 19-23 August 1991), (WEDC, Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, October 1991) tables, figures, some abstracts/ summaries, bibliographies/ references, ISBN 0 906055 27 X

Both the welcome address delivered by Mr. Kuyama on behalf of Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), and the keynote address, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Piche, spoke of the central importance of environmental sustainability, of infrastructure in national development and environmental protection, and of that vital element, people. As stated in the welcome address, "It is unacceptable and even inhuman to talk about long-term environmental sustainability without considering the short-term problems of mere survival ... for the more than one billion people liv[ing] in absolute poverty."

"People" was the topic of plenary session four, which included, *inter alia*, articles on "Gender sensitivity in development" by Morag Bell and Margaret Ince, and "Policies that constrain women irrigators" by Joseph Ssennyonga. The former included evidence from the WEDC training programme and conferences, while the latter drew on the author's field experience in Kenya and a survey of the literature. All seven sessions are covered in the proceedings, and all but one offer discussion on the papers.

Discussion group reports on some 15 groups follow -- with various papers, plus conclusions, under each. For example, the report on discussion group B, concerned with treatment of water and wastewater, reports on answers to questions on the papers presented and conclusions reached. Participants opted for appropriate technology, with design based on operation-and-maintenance (O and M) considerations. They added that engineers needed to provide O-and-M manuals for training operators, and to apply flexible standards depending on local conditions, the degree of treatment being determined from prototype studies.

■ **H.S. Sobral, ed., *Vegetable Plants and their Fibres as Building Materials*** (Chapman and Hall, 2-6 Boundary Row, London SE1 8HN, 1990), xvii plus 374 pp., abstracts, references, tables, figures, ISBN 0 419 39250 X

This publication offers the Proceedings of the Second International Symposium sponsored by RILEM (The International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures) and co-sponsored by CIB (International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation) and organized by UFBa (Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil, held at Salvador, Bahia, Brazil), from 17 to 21 September 1990.

A follow-up on the first symposium on the same topic (Baghdad, 1986), this Symposium was a forum to discuss the role of vegetable plants and their fibres as building materials for low-cost construction, using available modern technology. The parts of the book correspond to the sessions of the symposium:

- Introduction and background;
- Survey of present situation in relation to fibres;
- Properties of vegetable-fibre composite materials;
- Building components made with vegetable-fibre composite materials;
- Building components made with wood;
- Building with culms and sticks; and
- Recycling of agricultural waste and related topics.

The papers themselves range from "Prospects for coconut-fibre-reinforced thin cement sheets in the Malaysian construction industry" through "Reed fibres as reinforcement for dune sand" (in Saudi Arabia) to "The use of timber and bamboo as water conduits and storage" (in the United Republic of Tanzania).

The overall conclusion? "The research results, as presented in these papers, show the technical feasibility of using many of these alternative building materials and technologies in important construction projects of social interest, mainly for developing countries."

■ ***Water Technology International, 1992*** (Century Press, Holford Mews, Cruikshank St., London WC1X 9HD, UK, 1991), 388 pp., summaries, references, tables, figures, fast access listings, advertisers' index, ISBN 1 85745 040 X

The note by the contributing editor, Mary Monro, states that this book is an attempt to offer as comprehensive a review as possible of the latest advances in water technology, with some overlap between sections: global issues; water resources and groundwater; water distribution and sewerage; water and wastewater treatment; hydropower; and instrumentation control and analysis.

The first article, by Leonard Bays of the International Water Supply Organisation,

puts it in perspective: "In a world populated by some 5000 million people, more than a third do not have safe drinking water and a quarter do not have sanitation. Some 50,000 deaths occur every day from waterborne diseases. To put this in perspective, this is a third of all deaths occurring in the world... As part of these statistics, 4.6 million children die every year under the age of five years. All of which is a very sobering thought for those engaged in the potable water industry" , and concludes that "Surely there is a way for the industrialized world to put back into the developing world something to replace what has been taken out over many years."

Nick Jackson's "Natural charcoal as a filtration medium in water purification" is one of the 61 articles that follow. It gives a brief summary of the structure of natural charcoal, deals at length with its chemical properties, and discusses a number of other practical aspects, including its (promising) design life. The author concludes that, though a great deal of research remains to be done, "cumulative research and experience demonstrate that natural charcoal is a powerful and versatile solution to many of the problems facing the world's water industries... [N]atural charcoal has reached the stage where a breakthrough to high volume use is now very close."

JOURNALS

■ ***Asian Coalition Newsletter***, No. 1, June 1992

This is the first issue of a twice-yearly newsletter which will report on the activities of the Coalition of Housing Finance Institutions established in Asia as part of a joint UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP regional project on "Public/private partnerships" in extending access to housing finance (RAS/90/011). It also intends to cover current developments in housing finance in Asia.

The June 1992 issue discusses the background of the Coalition and its future strategy (for the next two years). It concludes by saying, "Sustainable development is a function of the degree of consensus and cooperation amongst individuals, institutions and [countries]. The Coalition is, in its future agenda, working for all three."

The Coalition Secretariat address is: Mr. Nasser Munjee, Project Consultant, HDFC, Ramon House, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Bombay 400 020.

■ ***International Co-operative Alliance, ICA News***, No. 3 1992

This special issue on the environment includes an article on "The environmental impact of informal settlements in developing countries" by Alicia J. George of the Co-operative Housing Foundation (CHF).

In it she notes that CHF has developed a model for mobilizing residents of informal settlements to address some of their own environmental problems using a community-based approach but including roles for national and local governments, technical assistance organizations, NGOs and CBOs, financing institutions and, of course, the people themselves. CHF has published a monograph on the topic "Partnership for a Livable Environment", available for $US6 from CHF, P.O. Box 91280, Washington, D/C/, 20090, USA.

■ ***IRCWD News*** No. 26, March 1992

With this issue, the newsletter of the International Reference Centre for Waste Disposal, used to inform those interested in the field of low-cost water treatment, sanitation and waste management in "developing countries" about ongoing projects, resumes publication. It is devoted to the problems of solid waste management, and carries two articles on the initial phase of a project it initiated with the financial support of the Swiss Development Cooperation. Other sections include important publications (which cites two by UNCHS (Habitat), and a call for information on community-based primary collection schemes and solid waste collection, decentralized composting and the development of realistic guidelines for the safe landfill disposal of municipal solid waste. The newsletter closes with a review of two recent IRCWD publications.

Further information from IRCWD News, Swiss Federal Institute for Water Resources and Water Pollution Control (EAWAG), Ueberlandstrasse 133, CH-8600 Duebendorf, Switzerland.

■ ***IRED Forum*** No. 42 (January-March 1992)

With this issue, this newsletter of the Development Innovations and Networks (IRED), takes on a new, larger format "to facilitate reading, in the village, in the evening after a day's work". The contents have also been slightly modified. The section entitled "The Life of the Network" has been enlarged, and now covers the recently-established IRED-North network. The editorial also states that the new-look newsletter has already adopted a simpler style in presentation of "Appropriate Technologies and Tools", and will publish more background articles and documents to induce debate on various ideas. Finally, IRED-Latin America has moved to Colombia, from where the Spanish edition is now being prepared and issued. Of particular interest to the human-settlements sector is the announcement of a video film on the experiences of the Grameen Bank. The VHS video cassette, lasting 35 minutes, is available in French, and will soon be available in English too. It is described as providing "an excellent presentation of the lives of the Grameen Bank's credit groups" particularly women at the level of a village or group of villages. (Further information from Mr. Oliveri, ICAD, Le Meret, 89113 GUERCHY, France)

■ **UNDP, *Source*,** December 1991

The issue opens with "Planning for the Future from Lessons Learned in the Past", in which G. Arthur Brown states that, despite the disappointing results of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, we can learn from that Decade. Population growth and inefficient management of available water supplies must both be tackled. He suggests the need for an element of cost-recovery in supplying water to the poor, and bringing in the private sector while the government regulates and enforces standards.

The topic of the rest of the issue is "ways with waste". In China, for example, the Shanghai Resource Recovery and Utilization Company in 1990 alone recycled an average of 4300 tonnes a day. Other examples include the incorporation of waste treatment in large-scale pig farming in Malaysia, and the separation and collection of solid wastes from households in Manila, the Philippines. As an advisor to the mayor of Quito, Ecuador, said, speaking of a new waste dump there, "It is important both for today and for future generations."

HABITAT AWARDS

Winners of the 1991 WORLD HABITAT AWARDS are:

1. **Kampung Improvement Programme In Surabaya, Indonesia.**

This community-based approach pioneered a new mode of shelter upgrading that has led to the improvement of the housing and living conditions of hundreds of thousands of families in cities and towns throughout Indonesia.

2. **Tampines New Town, Singapore.**

The Government of Singapore has had to confront extremely difficult spatial constraints to house its people, and at the same time, conserve its natural environment. This has been achieved by the careful selection and development of large satellite residential districts called new towns.

The winners of the 1992 HABITAT SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARDS are as follows:

1. **Intermediate Technology Development Group, United Kingdom**

For outstanding contributions to human settlements development through systematic and innovative research in building materials and technologies; demonstration and dissemination of information in intermediate technologies for developing countries.

2. **Shenzhen Housing Bureau, China**

For its large-scale, high-speed construction of housing and public facilities to meet rapidly growing demand while maintaining adequate standards in the face of natural and socio-economic constraints.

3. **Habitat International Coalition**

For bringing together a wide range of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, researchers and academics in the field of human settlements into a global forum to recognize the contribution of the people and their organizations.

4. **East Wahdat Upgrading Project, Jordan**

For outstanding achievements in improving the living conditions of low-income urban communities by applying new methods governed by the principles of affordability, replicability and sustainability.

5. Earthquake Emergency Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programme, Nepal

For mobilizing the resources of a number of international and national agencies in a partnership with the people for the rebuilding and upgrading of shelter and related facilities, incorporating self-help, and the training of local artisans.

6. Rural Housing Reconstruction with Appropriate Technologies, Ecuador

For its integral incorporation of cultural values, including self-help construction and mutual help, with women's participation, and including training in appropriate building technologies.

7. Namuwongo Upgrading and Low-cost Housing, Uganda

For improving basic housing and related infrastructure and social facilities through participation of the community and mobilization of local resources.

8. New Urban Communities in Egypt

For implementing a programme of new communities in arid lands to counter-balance existing overcrowded urban areas and to increase opportunities for the national economy, while preserving fertile agricultural land.

9. World Relief El Salvador Housing Reconstruction Project, El Salvador

For promoting earthquake-resistant construction and community health and well-being at the grass-roots level among victims of natural disasters through self-help efforts and measures to alleviate poverty for a better future for the families involved.

10. Woodless Construction Project, Niger

For promoting woodless building techniques based on earth vault and domed roof construction and undertaking training programmes, thus serving as a model for sub-Saharan countries lacking wood resources.

11. Mr. Laurie Baker

For his lifelong efforts while working in India as an architect, master craftsman, promoter of cost-effective aesthetic housing and in identifying innovative features of traditional building practices which could be easily adopted by local artisans.

12. Mr. Yona Friedman

For his lifelong search for innovative solutions to human settlements problems and his efforts to communicate scientific knowledge of building and construction techniques to the poor and deprived groups of developing societies.

13. Mayor Jaime Lerner, Curitiba, Brazil

For his leadership in making Curitiba an exemplary sustainable city, using integrated transit systems, linking the formal and informal economies, balancing necessity and possibility, and fostering civic spirit.

14. Mr. Rozanov Evgueni Grigorievich

For his creative and scientific activities in the design and construction of settlements, re-development of town centres, restoration of earthquake damage and directing major changes in national housing policy.

15. Mr. John F.C. Turner

For pioneering a new approach to shelter development by popularizing the idea of enabling people to build their own shelter and services, with governments acting as facilitators.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1992

AUGUST

Loughborough University of Technology, 18th WEDC CONFERENCE on the topic "Water, environment and management", Kathmandu, Nepal, 31 August - 4 September 1992

Information from: Mrs. Rowena Steele, WEDC, Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, England, UK

SEPTEMBER

University of Reading, SECOND WORLD RENEWABLE ENERGY CONGRESS, Reading, England, UK, 13-18 September 1992

Information from: Department of Engineering, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O. Box 225, Reading RG6 2AY, UK Tel. (44-734) 875-123, ext. 7575. Fax 313-835

OCTOBER

International Association for the Development and Management of Existing and New Towns (INTA) 16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE on the theme "Urban Renaissance in Europe", Madrid, Spain, 25 October - 1 November 1992

See article under Events.

NOVEMBER

UNCHS (Habitat)/Government of the Netherlands, MEETING ON GOVERNMENTAL/NON-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, The Hague, the Netherlands, 2-6 November 1992

See article under UNCHS activities.

Ministry of the Environment, Quebec, Canada..., 15th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT/4th WORKSHOP ON DRINKING WATER, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 17-19 November 1992

Information from: AQTE - Symposium '92, 407 boulevard Saint-Laurent Suite 500, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2Y5, Canada. Fax (514) 866-4020

DECEMBER

League of Arab States/Ministry of Development, New Communities, Housing and Public Utilities, Government of Egypt/UNCHS (Habitat), ARAB STATES REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL SHELTER STRATEGIES, Cairo, Egypt, 13 to 17 December, 1992

Information from: D. Johal, UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

1993

MARCH

Society for the Revival of Architecture and Planning Heritage/Center for Planning and Architectural Studies, SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ABOUT HASSAN FATHY'S PHILOSOPHY IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE and ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION, Cairo, Egypt, 23-25 March 1993

Information from: SRPAH, CPAS, 14, El-Sobki St., M. El Bakry, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt. Tel. 670271 - 670744 - 670843. Fax. (202) 2919341

APRIL

UNCHS (Habitat)/Department of Architecture, University of Queensland/Government of Australia, GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SHELTER TO THE YEAR 2000 SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR, Brisbane, Australia, 13-17 April 1993

Information from: D. Johal, UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

International Association for Development and Community Action/Community Development Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Thailand/Province de Hainaut, Belgium, INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE THEME "ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Banglamung, Thailand, 19-22 April 1993

See article under Events.

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, Nairobi, Kenya, 26 April - 5 May 1993

JUNE

CANMET, ADVANCED HOUSING OF THE WORLD '93, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 20-26 June 1993

See article under Events.

OCTOBER

CME, FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON EMULSION:SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (with emphasis on bitumen emulsion), Paris, France, 19-22 October 1993

Information from: Société CME, 50 Place Marcel Pagnol, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France

NOVEMBER

The Research and Working Group on African Housing and Urban Development and the Global Shelter Initiative for Developing Countries, 12th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World, on the theme "The State of the Third World: New Directions", Cairo, Egypt, 21-26 November 1993

Information from: Mekki Mtewa, Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World, P.O. Box 70257, Washington, D.C. 20024-0257; Fax and Phone (202) 723-7010

Western Consortium for Public Health, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTHY CITIES, San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA, 6-10 December 1993

Information from: Western Consortium for Public Health, 2001 Addison St., Suite 200, Berkeley, California 94704-1103, USA; Phone (510) 644-9300, Telex 6714622 WCPH, Fax (510) 644-9319

CORRESPONDENCE

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). It is published three times a year and distributed free of charge.

News of forthcoming events in human settlements which may be of international or regional interest are welcome, and should be forwarded to the Editor, UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

We also welcome reprinting of any of the material in this publication, provided that the source is mentioned and one copy of the reprint is sent to the Editor.

All correspondence pertaining to the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) should be forwarded to the following address:

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Cover artwork

Front cover: Top photo, left to right: Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat); H.E. Mr. Alberto Etchegaray, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Chile; and Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary, ECLAC at the March 1992 Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean. World HABITAT Day poster 1992. Site plan from Enta from the sites-and-services in Conakry project, Guinea. **Back cover:** Poster developed by project Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development, for a 1992 FINNIDA exhibition.

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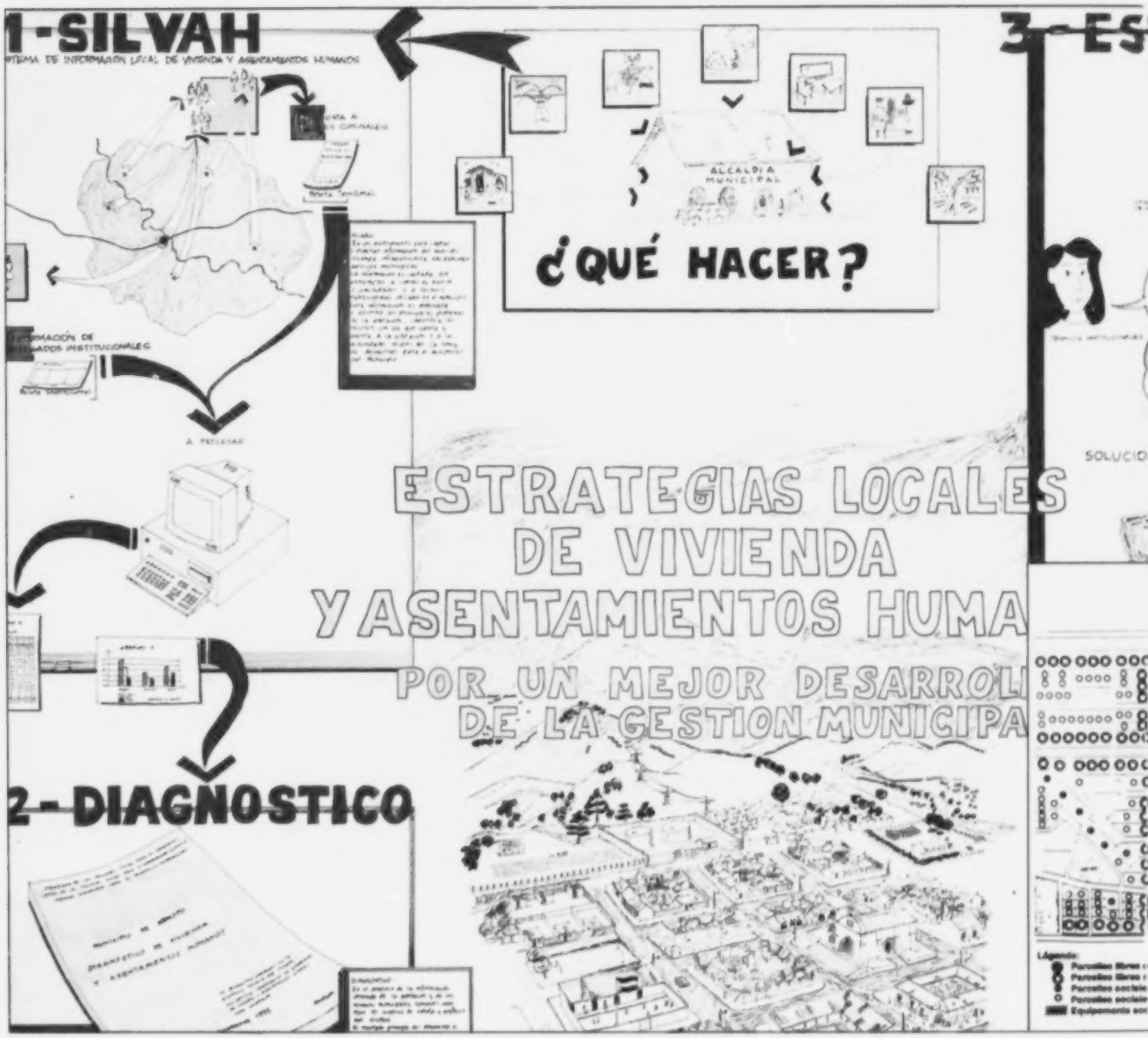

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